

THE READINGTON MUSEUMS
MUSEUM COMMITTEE
MEETING
October 17, 2009

Chairman Jim Horvath called the meeting to order at 9:44 a.m. He announced that all laws governing the Open Public Meetings Act had been met and that the meeting had been duly advertised.

PRESENT: Jim Horvath, Betty Ann Fort, Nancy O'Malley, and Erin Brennan.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Tabled to next meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

Exhibit. The Committee noted that the 2009 Exhibit, "*The Things They Made*", was very well attended, with approximately half of the visitors being pupils working on their extra credit assignment. The Committee suggested that reasons for the successful attendance could include the nice weather and an interesting subject, having something interesting for everyone. The Committee agreed that the barn was underutilized. Betty Ann Fort had suggested to the Museum Administrator to photograph the items of the exhibit for a Museum publication.

Future Exhibit. Jim Horvath mentioned that Scott Scammel contacted the Museum Administrator with a proposal to lend his extensive antique weaponry collection for an exhibit next year. Other events during the exhibit could include reenactments. The Committee discussed the time and resource issues, especially in light of the fact that this year's exhibit occurred during the Cold Brook School program. The Committee believed that an exhibit could be held next year provided that (i) it not be held during a school program; and (ii) the research and other preparation can be done by the collector or someone else.

New Committee Member: Neither the Committee nor Mrs. Farrant has been informed whether her appointment to the Museum Committee was approved by the Township Committee. Jim will ask the Township Administrator.

Cold Brook School: Kim Costa will do three Cold Brook School sessions. The Committee discussed the requests by Solomon Schechter Day School, Immaculate Conception (Annandale) Elementary School, and Good Shepherd Christian School to participate in the program this year as they had done in previous years. The Committee agreed that, although offering the school programs to school districts other than Readington Township is a much needed source of funds, the reduced hours of the Museum Administrator do not permit the Museums to take on the responsibility. Betty Ann moved that the Museums inform the three schools that we could not accommodate them this year but to keep us in mind for future years as we review our programs. Erin Brennan seconded the motion and it was unanimously

RESOLVED, that due to the lack of resources the Museums suspend offering the Cold Brook School program to schools outside of the Readington Township School District until such time that other resources can be found; and it is

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Committee shall review alternative resources to enable the Museums to resume offering the program.

Barn Dance: The dance will be held tonight despite the weather.

NEW BUSINESS:

Orchard Policy: The Committee discussed the need to establish a policy regarding the apples and pears from the orchard at the Bouman Stickney Farmstead. The Committee agreed that visitors to the Museums were welcome to the fruit provided that they take only as much as they could reasonably consume (i.e., one plastic grocery bagful) to enable an equitable distribution. The Committee agreed that signs informing visitors of this policy was necessary. Betty Ann moved that such a policy be adopted by the Museums and that signs be made to enforce the policy. Nancy O'Malley seconded the motion and it was unanimously

RESOLVED, that the Museums' policy regarding fruit-picking at the Bouman Stickney Farmstead (the "Policy") shall be as follows:

Visitors are welcome to pick the fruit at the Bouman Stickney Farmstead *provided, however,* they pick only as much fruit as they can reasonably consume, and leave enough for others to enjoy.

And it was

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Museums purchase two signs setting forth the Policy to be placed at each end of the orchard.

Upcoming Programs: The Committee noted that the house at the Bouman Stickney Farmstead had to be readied for the November 1 open house (Open Hearth Cooking). The Committee also noted that the St. Nicholas Day celebrations will be held on December 6 and that the first grade program will be held at the end of January.

LaTourette Coverlet: The Committee discussed the Museums' purchase for \$400.00 of a nineteenth century coverlet from the estate of the LaTourette family, a long established Readington family. Nancy expressed concern that such items are not being displayed or utilized to their fullest extent. Betty Ann made a case for the Museums being a repository of Readington history and that the coverlet was an excellent example of both nineteenth century New Jersey craftsmanship as well as a piece of local history. Nancy agreed that the coverlet should be purchased provided that the Museums make an effort to display its coverlets to the fullest extent possible. Erin moved that the coverlet be purchased. Betty Ann seconded the motion and it was unanimously

RESOLVED, that the Museums purchase the nineteenth century coverlet from the LaTourette estate at a price not to exceed four hundred dollars (\$400.00).

Painting: The Committee requested that the Museum Administrator obtain quotes for painting the trim at the Bouman Stickney Farmstead. The Committee agreed that the color should be brown as currently on the building. The Committee considered whether the house should be parged, as the stone of eighteenth century was not normally left exposed. Betty Ann felt that although parging would be more authentic, the stone is a

better teaching tool to explain the way houses were built at that time. The Committee agreed to address the matter at a later date.

ADJOURNMENT: Erin moved that the meeting be adjourned. Nancy seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 10:27 a.m.

Erin Brennan

Respectfully submitted
Erin Brennan, Secretary