

THE READINGTON MUSEUMS
MUSEUM COMMITTEE MEETING
November 2, 2006

Chairperson Betty Ann Fort called the meeting to order at 7:40 pm.

PRESENT: Betty Ann Fort, Jim Horvath, Nancy O'Malley, Erin Brennan, Joyce Lykes

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The Museum Committee reviewed the meeting minutes from October 5, 2006. Nancy O'Malley made a motion to approve the meeting minutes as written. Joyce Lykes seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

CORRESPONDENCE: Noted

OLD BUSINESS:

Hall House

Exhibit/Ribbon Cutting: Everyone noted that the exhibit went very well. Betty Ann Fort mentioned that she will write thank you notes to everyone who lent items to the exhibit, as well as to Sue Reardon (with a copy to the superintendent of schools) for preparing the assignment to the students.

The committee discussed the efficacy of the Hall House as an exhibit site. While the location proved to be favorable as an empty house, how would it function as an exhibit site when the furniture is in place? A suggestion was made to "lighten the load" or remove some of the furniture when the site will hold an exhibit. Another suggestion was to have a smaller exhibit, as the railroad exhibit contained a large amount of text. Nancy O'Malley raised the question of parking. The committee decided to consider using the Hall House for an exhibit every other year.

Jim Horvath noted that the 4:30 reception time was good as it enabled Township employees to attend and thereby learn more about the Museum. However, it was noted that the 4:30 – 9:00 time was quite long. A shorter reception period will be considered.

Betty Ann Fort noted that having an exhibit during a school program was difficult. However, circumstances such as the delayed completion of the construction greatly contributed to this scheduling problem. The committee will endeavor not to schedule exhibits when school or other programs are in session.

Punch List: Mike Hanrahan will confirm that all remaining items on the punch list have been taken care of.

Final Grant Report: Jim Horvath confirmed that a final report to the Historic Trust is required.

Second Floor: Jim and Betty Ann will talk with Mike about the construction needs for the second floor.

Fence: Jim noted that the fence contract with Rudl has been signed.

Cellar: Jim and Betty Ann will talk with Mike about whether the plaster problems in the cellar were present prior to the construction.

Heater Repair/Service: The committee noted that the gas heaters in the Hall House are unreliable, unsightly, and the committee questioned their safety. The committee decided that

PSE&G should be called to service the heaters and will also look into whether they can be replaced with electric heaters.

The committee then adjourned to Executive Session at 8:20 p.m. and returned to Public Session at 8:50 p.m.

Bouman-Stickney Farmstead

Bridge: Betty Ann talked with Scott Jesseman of the Roads Department and with Kevin. They will lift the metal plate and repair the structure. Betty Ann suggested that the members examine the damage in order to decide on the necessary repairs. She will advise the committee when the plate will be lifted.

Guest House: Jim will ask the Administrator to issue a work order to have the well inspected/repared and to remediate the oil tank.

New Committee Member: The committee discussed what we desired in a new committee member. Betty Ann suggested asking Sandy Finfinnis. She is a retired teacher from Three Bridges and is very active in the school programs. Erin Brennan suggested Mike (Max's dad), whose Dreahook Road property adjoins BSF. Betty Ann will ask the Administrator to determine whether either would be interested in the position.

Joint Meeting with Historic Preservation Committee: The committee decided that a meeting, separate from the schedules of either committee, be held in February or March. Jim will communicate the suggestion to the Historic Preservation Committee.

NEW BUSINESS:

Electrical Work for the Museum Sites: The electrical work to be done consists of adding a GFCI circuit to the wash house and the front of the Hall House, as well as fixing the pole light in the front and adding switch and ceiling lights to the second floor. At the Cold Brook School an additional light is needed. A bigger transformer is needed at the Bouman-Stickney Farmstead to enable brighter lights (on a dimmer).

Display Stands: The Administrator had asked the committee to consider purchasing her display stands that were used at the railroad exhibit for a total cost of \$750. Nancy raised a concern whether there would be sufficient funds from the budget surplus, as we were already using the surplus for the oil tank, the well, the bridge, the fence and the electrical work. Nancy will determine whether the funds are available.

Barn: Betty Ann noted that the barn and the chairs will require a thorough cleaning before any future use.

Nature Trail Bridges: Jim noted that the bridges built by the Boy Scouts were inadequate and that some were prone to flooding. Al Rebovitch will inform the Open Space Committee.

Jim Horvath made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 p.m. Nancy O'Malley seconded the motion. All were in favor.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted

Erin Brennan, Museum Committee Member