

THE READINGTON MUSEUMS
MUSEUM COMMITTEE
MEETING
February 3, 2011

Chairman Jim Horvath called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. He announced that the meeting had been duly advertised. The Committee met at the Municipal Building due to the hazardous driveway conditions at the Bouman Stickney Farmstead.

PRESENT: Jim Horvath, Betty Ann Fort, Erin Brennan, Joyce Lykes, Helen Farrant and Program Director Kim Costa. A quorum of Committee members was present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Betty Ann Fort moved to approve the minutes from the open session of the January 3, 2011 meeting, as amended. Helen Farrant seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously passed. Betty Ann moved to approve the minutes from the closed session of the January 3, 2011 meeting. Helen seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously passed.

PROGRAM DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

The Program Director presented her report for December and the Committee reviewed and discussed the report.

2011 PROGRAMS:

The Committee discussed the effect of the Township Committee's decision to reduce the amount of hours for the proposed Museum Assistant on 2011 Programming. The Committee agreed that the most labor intensive program, the newly established 3rd grade program, would have to be cut. The Program Director, while agreeing that the staffing reduction made the program an impossibility, she asked the Committee for their input on presenting a much truncated program to be given in the schools. The Committee that any such program would have to be prepared with the sanction of the school's Humanities Supervisor. Betty Ann and the Program Director will meet with Mary Jean DiRoberto to discuss the possibility of having such a program. Other programs to be cut were the annual exhibit, the proposed summer picnic and a movie series, and Museum Camp. The Committee noted that the amount of hours per week required to hold Museum Camp exceeded the Program Director's weekly hours. Jim asked for a motion regarding the cuts. Betty Ann made the motion, which was seconded by Joyce Lykes, and the following resolution was unanimously passed:

WHEREAS, the Readington Township Committee has reduced the Museums' staffing to (i) a Program Director at twenty (20) hours per week and (ii) an assistant at twelve (12) hours per week from twenty (20) and twenty (20) hours, respectively (the "Staffing Reduction"); and

WHEREAS, the Staffing Reduction will necessitate the reduction or elimination of more labor intensive Museum programs.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Museum Committee, reluctantly and with great regret, hereby authorizes the following programs to be eliminated for the year 2011:

1. Third Grade Program (April-May);
2. Museum Camp (July);
3. Picnic and a Movie (Summer); and
4. Annual Exhibit (Autumn).

The Committee agreed that further cuts may be needed as the year progresses.

OLD BUSINESS

Website: The Program Director noted that the Township's webmaster has not been meeting his promised 24 hour turn-around, and that the maximum file size was lower than promised.

Floor: Helen noted that different paint will be needed for the steps. The steps will have to be cleaned, scrubbed and their surface broken (sanded) prior to painting, and that tread tape will have to be applied.

Lights: The Program Director still has not yet received a response from K-Electric.

Front Steps: Jim noted that Mike Hanrahan has not yet looked at the front steps. He will call Mike to set up a time.

First Grade Program: The program will start on Monday, February 7th. Everything has been prepared.

Fifty Grade Program: The Program Director reported that all crafters have been engaged and that an historical interpreter has been found to portray Colonel Taylor.

NEW BUSINESS

Budget: Betty Ann asked the Program Director to prepare a 2011 budget and e-mail it to the Committee for their review and comment.

Window Leak: The Program Director reported a leak in the bedchamber at the Bouman Stickney Farmstead, which was possibly caused by loose shingles on the dormer.

Eagle Scout Project: The Committee reviewed the Erosion Control and Trail Improvement Project proposed by Matt Filippini, a copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit A. Both Betty Ann and Helen expressed concern about required permits, stream encroachment, as well as compliance with state environmental laws. Erin Brennan moved that the project be supported subject to the satisfaction of all applicable laws. Betty Ann seconded the motion and it was unanimously

RESOLVED, that the Museum Committee hereby supports and approves the Bouman Stickney Loop Trail Erosion Control and Trail Improvement project proposed by Eagle Scout Candidate Matt Filippini, a copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit A (the "Project"), *provided, however*, that the Project comply with all applicable laws, in particular those relating to wetlands and stream encroachment.

MOVE TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Jim Horvath asked for a motion to adjourn to executive session to discuss personnel matters. Betty Ann made the motion and it was seconded by Helen. The following resolution was unanimously passed:

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq., the Open Public Meetings Act, permits the exclusion of the public from a meeting in certain circumstances; and

WHEREAS, the Museum Committee is of the opinion that such circumstances presently exist and desires to authorize the exclusion of the public from the portion of the meeting in accordance with the act;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the public shall be excluded from discussion of and action upon the specified subject matter as set forth below:

Subject Matter	Basis Of Public Exclusion	Date Anticipated When Disclosed to Public
Administrative Assistant	Personnel Matters	March 30, 2011

The Committee adjourned to Executive Session at 8:25 p.m.

Betty Ann moved that the Committee return to Open Session. Helen seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed. The Committee returned to Open Session at 8:45 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: Betty Ann moved that the meeting be adjourned. Joyce seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Erin Brennan
Secretary