

THE READINGTON MUSEUMS
MUSEUM COMMITTEE
MEETING
March 3, 2011

Vice-Chair Betty Ann Fort called the meeting to order at 7:37 p.m. She announced that all laws governing the Open Public Meetings Act had been met and that the meeting had been duly advertised.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Helen Farrant moved to approve the minutes from both the open and executive sessions of the February 3, 2011 meeting. Joyce Lykes 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. The Program Director noted that she would be meeting with Mary Jean DiRoberto on March 4th to discuss an activity for the third grade.

MUSEUM ASSISTANT

Betty Ann noted that the position had been offered to Margaret Smith, a former volunteer. She will work twelve (12) hours per week. All three candidates had been excellent.

2011 PROGRAMS:

First Grade: Three sessions remain.

Fifth Grade: All crafters have been hired and volunteers have been arranged. A volunteer is still needed to act as a facilitator. One solution could be a Rider University college student who expressed an interest in doing an internship during May and June.

OLD BUSINESS

Website: The Program Director reported that information is being placed promptly onto the website. She also noted that the Museums' New Jersey Historic Trust grant is now requiring information concerning the website, including the number of hits received.

Floor: The stairs will be painted on March 12..

Lights: The estimate from K-Electric has been received and amounted to \$2927 to upgrade the lighting on the first and second floors and \$2620 to install lighting on the third floor. The Committee agreed that the amounts seemed excessive. The Program Director will obtain estimates from other electricians.

Front Steps: Mike Hanrahan still has not looked at the front steps. The Program Director will obtain repair estimates from several masons.

Costumes: The Program Director noted that shirts are needed. Gowns have been made.

Bridge: The Program Director presented the letter from the NJ Department of Environmental Protection setting forth the various wetland regulations to which the property is subject. She will provide a copy to John Klotz in connection with the proposed Eagle Scout project regarding the hiking trails on the property.

Betty Ann noted that the railing on the bridge was damaged. She will speak to Scott Jesseman about erecting a barrier.

NEW BUSINESS

Holly Trail: The Committee discussed the Holly Trail Committee's desire to include the Bouman Stickney Farmstead (the "Farmstead") on their 2011 itinerary. All agreed that, while Holly Trail would provide excellent exposure for the Museums, especially in these difficult times, there were concerns regarding (i) safety, in particular regarding the Jersey winder stairways and the size of the kitchen, as well as the narrowness of the driveway; and (ii) the event takes place the day before the Museums' St. Nicholas Day open house. Joyce, who has worked with the Holly Trail, noted that the organization is fully insured and that someone would have to be at the Farmstead every day (and night) while the house was being decorated. The Committee agreed that someone from the Holly Trail should come to the next Thursday night Committee meeting.

Gardens: The Girl Scout troop that maintained the gardens at the Eversole Hall House has not yet found a troop to take over for 2011. Once one is found, the Program Director will speak with them regarding appropriate plantings. The Program Director also noted that one of the Museum Assistant candidates had offered to present the Farmstead gardens to the Boy Scouts to take on as a project. The Museums would provide supplies, but the scouts would plant maintain the garden. The Program Director will come up with a garden plan.

Wedding: The Committee discussed the request made to hold a wedding at the Farmstead grounds on August 20. One hundred fifty guests are expected. The Program Director will check if the amount is within fire code restrictions.

ALHFAM: The Program Director will be presenting at ALHFAM this year. The cost for her attendance is \$425.00. The Committee agreed to table their approval until the lodging rates are received.

ADJOURNMENT: Erin Brennan moved that the meeting be adjourned. Helen seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Erin Brennan
Secretary