

THE READINGTON MUSEUMS  
MUSEUM COMMITTEE  
MEETING  
May 5, 2011

Chairman Jim Horvath called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.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, Erin Brennan, Nancy O'Malley, Joyce Lykes, Helen Farrant, Program Director Kim Costa, and Museum Assistant Margaret Smith. A quorum of Committee members was present.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Nancy O'Malley moved to approve the minutes from the April 7, 2011 meeting, as amended. Joyce Lykes seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously passed. Joyce moved to approve the minutes from the April 16, 2011 meeting. Nancy seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously passed with Joyce abstaining.

**GROVE SCHOOL MEMORABILIA:** Jim Horvath presented Grove School materials given to the Museums from the Historic Preservation Commission. The materials had been found in a dresser that someone had bought. The donor remains anonymous. The Grove School was situated near the cemetery on Woodschurch Road. The materials relate to a 1936 reunion of classes dating back to the Civil War.

**PROGRAM DIRECTOR AND MUSEUM ASSISTANT REPORTS:**

The Program Director and Museum Assistant presented their reports for April and the Committee reviewed and discussed them.

**2011 PROGRAMS:**

**Fifth Grade:** The Program Director and Museum Assistant have commenced the candles. The college intern will arrive on May 13 to learn her role in the program. Crafters will include cooking, sausage making, blacksmith, basketry and spinning. The children will drill and join the local militia. A recruiting poster and a Betsy Ross flag are still needed.

**Cold Brook School:** The program will be held on May 20<sup>th</sup> for approximately 15 – 20 home-schooled children of all ages.

**Third Grade Presentation:** An abbreviated presentation will be given to approximately 125 third graders at the Three Bridges School.

**Sunday Open House:** Twenty-two people attended the May 1<sup>st</sup> surveying demonstration. Many visitors were brought to the event through the corresponding article in the Hunterdon County *Democrat*. The Committee discussed the \$500 cost of the surveyor from the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation. They understood that originally the surveyor was to have participated in the now canceled third grade program; however all agreed that such an expense will be avoided in the future.

**Remember the Ladies:** The program was cancelled due to low turnout.

**Barn Dance:** The dance will take place on May 21.

**Lecture Series:** The series will commence June 24<sup>th</sup> with 18<sup>th</sup> Century Kitchens, given by Kim Costa. This is a change in program as the NJ diner lecturer didn't respond. On July 29<sup>th</sup> the topic will be Boardwalks and on August 26<sup>th</sup>, Hunterdon County Post Offices.

#### **BUDGET:**

The final hearing of the Township budget will be May 16. Jim asked that as many Committee members as possible come to the meeting. According to the published preliminary budget, the Museums' portion of salaries amounts to \$25,800. This represents a shortage of approximately \$2,000. The Museums' allocation for programs and other items amounts to approximately \$18,000. Jim and Vice Chair Betty Ann Fort will speak with Tom Carro about the salary shortage.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

**Porch:** The Program Director obtained three estimates: (i) \$4,200 plus \$700 to remove the non-period correct beehive oven; (ii) \$4,400; and (iii) \$2,700. All but (iii) included taking apart the entire stonework as architecturally recommended. The Committee discussed the estimates and agreed that (i), which was presented by Curry and Co., provided the best service because (a) he recommended the architecturally correct process of taking the entire porch apart; and (b) he has done work on historic buildings before, in particular at the Newark Museum. Erin Brennan moved that Mr. Curry's proposal be presented to the Township Committee for approval. Helen Farrant seconded the motion and it was

RESOLVED, that the estimate of Curry and Company to repair the back porch at the Bouman Stickney Farmstead at a cost of \$4,200 be accepted by the Museum Committed; and it is

FURTHER RESOLVED, that such estimate be presented to the Township Committee for approval.

**Lights:** Mr. Electric came to give an estimate and recommended that LED lights be placed in the kitchen. EPower will come and provide an estimate next week.

**Holly Trail:** The Holly Trail Committee deemed it best not to include the Bouman Stickney Farmstead in their tour because of the difficulty busses will have on the driveway.

**Gardens:** The girl scout troop took over the gardens at the Eversole Hall House. If a troop cannot be found to maintain the Bouman Stickney Gardens, some families will be recruited.

**Tom Baker's Book:** The Program Director reported that a bookbinder informed her that Tom Baker's 1828 book, used in the Cold Brook School program, was not valuable but would cost approximately \$125 - \$170 to repair. The Committee agreed that the book be put in archival storage until such time as repairs would be more cost-efficient.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

**Report to Township Committee Liaison:** Jim Horvath advised that Frank Gatti, the Museums' liaison to the Township Committee, requested that the Museums provide a report to him for each Township Committee meeting on the first and third Monday of each month.

**Bouman Stickney Objects:** The Program Director presented a list of historic reproductions she felt were needed to present an historically correct interpretation of the Bouman Stickney Farmstead. The objects include an inkwell, a toaster and various kitchen objects. Helen offered to make the inkwell. Joyce moved that the objects be purchased and Helen seconded the motion. It was then unanimously

RESOLVED, that the Program Director is authorized and empowered to purchase certain historically reproduced objects for the Bouman Stickney Farmstead at an amount not to exceed three hundred fifty dollars (\$350) in the aggregate; and it is

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the funds authorized in the foregoing resolution be taken from the Museum Trust.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Nancy moved that the meeting be adjourned. Joyce seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Erin Brennan  
Secretary

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