

THE READINGTON MUSEUMS
MUSEUM COMMITTEE

MEETING

July 7, 2011

Chairman Jim Horvath called the meeting to order at 7:40 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, Betty Ann Fort, Erin Brennan, Nancy O'Malley, 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 the June 2, 2011 meeting, as amended. Nancy O'Malley seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously passed.

PROGRAM DIRECTOR REPORT: The Program Director presented an oral report for June and the Committee discussed it.

OLD BUSINESS:

Tree Pruning: The Program Director reported that Bartlett's bill to prune the magnolia tree at Bouman Stickney Farmstead (the "Farmstead") amounted to approximately \$620, one hundred twenty dollars more than the Committee had approved at the June 2nd meeting. Erin Brennan moved that the Committee authorize an additional \$150 for the job. Helen seconded the motion and the following resolution was passed unanimously:

WHEREAS, on June 2, 2011, the Committee passed a resolution that authorized and empowered the Program Director to engage Bartlett Tree Service ("Bartlett") to prune the magnolia tree at the Bouman Stickney Farmstead at a cost not to exceed \$500 (the "June Resolution"); and

WHEREAS, Bartlett's charge to prune the tree exceeded the amount approved by the Committee by approximately \$120; and

WHEREAS, the Committee desires to amend the June Resolution to increase the amount authorized therein from \$500 to \$650.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the June Resolution be rescinded and replaced by the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the Program Director is authorized and empowered to engage Bartlett Tree Service to prune the magnolia tree at the Bouman Stickney Farmstead at a cost not to exceed \$650.

Lecture Series: Eighteen people attended the June 24th lecture on 18th Century Kitchens; the Museum Trust received an additional \$30 in donations. The next lecture will be on Boardwalks on July 29th. The speakers' fee for the lecture is \$200.

Kitchen Floor: The Committee admired the paint job on the steps and the floor performed by Jim Horvath, Joyce Lykes and Nancy O'Malley. The kitchen walls will be painted later in the summer.

Porch: The mason completed the replacement of the Farmstead porch and the repairs to the front step and performed a satisfactory job. The bill will be submitted to the Township for payment.

Lights: The upgrading of the lights will be postponed to 2012 due to budgetary restraints.

Bridge: The Program Director spoke with Tom Carro and was informed that the \$1885 expense for the wood to repair the bridge will remain against the Museums' budget. The Committee agreed that the charge did not relate to the Museums as the bridge is not needed for the Museums' activities, in particular since the guest house renovations are on hold pending future funding. Moreover, the Township Committee had confirmed that the Museums' budget was not to be used for structural repairs. Betty Ann Fort will speak with Mayor Gatti and Township Committee member Julia Allen about the matter.

Alarm System: Maintenance work was performed on the alarm system at the Farmstead. One sensor required repair/replacement. In addition, the Museums' DSL line was interfering with the alarm. The problem was corrected and the alarm system is now fully functional.

Eversole Hall House: The Girl Scout troop who volunteered to maintain the garden has not been coming regularly. Museum Intern Brittany Gajewski and the Program Director will weed it. The phone has not yet been removed.

NEW BUSINESS

Fruit Trees: The Museums received a request from Dan Allen, on behalf of the Readington Community Gardens, to plant and maintain period correct fruit and nut trees in the plowed field at the Farmstead. The Committee discussed the matter and asked the Program Director to ask Dan for an idea of the type and quantity of trees, as well as their proposed placement.

Old Computers: The Program Director asked the Committee for suggestions regarding the disposal of obsolete and no longer used computer equipment from the Museums' offices. The Committee advised that she should ask the Township Administrator prior to giving them away or recycling them. Information on any hard drives would be secured and the hardware deaccessioned prior to disposal.

Collections Subcommittee: The Committee discussed the need for a collections subcommittee that would provide recommendations to the full Committee on the acquisition, deaccessioning and disposal of items for from the Museums' collections. Betty Ann moved that such a subcommittee be established. Erin seconded the motion and the following resolution was unanimously passed:

RESOLVED, that a Collections Subcommittee of the Museum Committee be, and it hereby is, established, which Subcommittee shall provide advice and recommendations to the full Committee on:

- (i) The acquisition of artifacts and other items added to the Museums' collections;
- (ii) The proper and ethical deaccessioning and disposal of artifacts that no longer fit the Museums' mission or can no longer be properly maintained in the Museums' collections;

and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Collections Subcommittee shall be comprised of four (4) members of the Committee, with the initial members being: Erin Brennan, Helen Farrant, Betty Ann Fort, and Nancy O'Malley; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Collections Subcommittee shall meet as needed and present their report to the full Committee at their following meeting; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that a quorum of the Collections Subcommittee shall consist of two (2) members.

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 Nancy. 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
Performance Issue	Personnel Matters	January 31, 2012

The Committee adjourned to Executive Session at 8:40 p.m.

Erin moved that the Committee return to Open Session. Betty Ann seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed. The Committee returned to Open Session at 8:50 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: Nancy moved that the meeting be adjourned. Helen seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Erin Brennan
Secretary

11/11/11