

THE READINGTON MUSEUMS
MUSEUM COMMITTEE
MEETING

August 4, 2011

Chairman Jim Horvath called the meeting to order at 7:36 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, Joyce Lykes and Program Director Kim Costa. A quorum of Committee members was present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Nancy O'Malley moved to approve the minutes from the July 7, 2011 meeting, as amended. Helen Farrant seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously passed.

PROGRAM DIRECTOR REPORT: The Program Director presented her report for July and the Committee discussed it. The Program Director noted that the New Jersey Historic Trust has changed its grant application rules.

OLD BUSINESS:

Lecture Series: Twenty-two people attended the July lecture on Boardwalks; the Museum Trust received \$60 in donations. The next lecture will be on Hunterdon County Post Offices on August 26th.

Bridge: Public Works will not repair the bridge until August or September due to other priorities. The Program Director noted that the Township was able to reallocate the \$1885 expense for the wood to repair the bridge so that it is not booked against the Museums' budget. However, the Museums will not be able to remove the approximately \$4,000 charge for the masonry work done to the front steps.

Fruit Trees: The Museums have received no further information as of the date of this meeting.

Collections Subcommittee: Erin Brennan asked about the need for a Collections Policy. The Program Director will circulate a sample.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

September Open House: A gunsmith will be giving a demonstration on September 11. His fee is \$100.

School Programs: The Program Director distributed the program dates to the Committee. A copy is attached hereto.

Fourth Grade: The Program Director pointed out that the Fourth Grade program will be held earlier due to testing. She also noted that the teachers do not want to prepare the pupils for the recitation portion of the program. They maintain that it is not part of the core curriculum and would rather more map work. The Committee agreed that recitation and rote learning was intrinsic to early 19th century education. Betty Ann Fort will speak to Mary Jean DiRoberto about the matter.

Third Grade: Again, due to testing three classes will have to be accommodated on April 4th.

NEW BUSINESS

Memorabilia: The Program Director presented Stickney/Lindsay Broadway posters and contracts recently acquired by the Museums. She also presented the reprints from negatives belonging to the Hunterdon County Historical Society. The prints depict Dorothy Stickney at the Farmstead in 1964.

Godaddy: The domain name readingtonmuseums.com has been renewed. It will connect directly to the Museums' page at readingtontwp.org. This domain provides more hits, the number of which must be reported to the New Jersey Historic Trust.

Grants: The Program Director presented her research on various grants that may be available to the Museums. At the top of the list was a mini-grant from the Hunterdon County Cultural and Heritage Commission to help with program funding. In addition, the Committee discussed county grants for the guest house, state grants for school and public programs. The Committee noted that the Museums is not a 501(c)3 organization and therefore may be precluded from applying for some grants.

ADJOURNMENT: Betty Ann moved that the meeting be adjourned. Helen seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Erin Brennan
Secretary