

THE READINGTON MUSEUMS  
MUSEUM COMMITTEE  
MEETING  
December 1, 2011

Chairman Jim Horvath called the meeting to order at 7:39 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, Helen Farrant, Nancy O'Malley, Program Director Kimberly Costa, and Museum Assistant Margaret Smith. A quorum of Committee members was present.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Betty Ann Fort moved to approve the minutes from the November 3, 2011 meeting. Nancy O'Malley seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously passed.

**GUEST HOUSE WALKABOUT:** On November 19<sup>th</sup>, the Committee walked through the Howard Lindsay Guest House to determine and prioritize the steps to the restoration process. The Committee reviewed the punch list of items created during the walkabout. Betty Ann questioned the need to delete the proposed upstairs bathroom. The Committee agreed that the plumbing should be roughed in. The Committee also asked the Program Director to (i) have the broken window over the sink boarded up; (ii) have the well tested; and (iii) have the gutters cleaned out.

**PROGRAM DIRECTOR AND MUSEUM ASSISTANT'S REPORT:** The Committee reviewed and discussed the reports. The Program Director mentioned that the Questors group, who had toured the Bouman Stickney Farmstead, were disappointed in the length of the tour. The Committee agreed that in the future, we could ask in advance if a group has any special interests that the docent could focus on during the tour. The Program Director also mentioned that the grant application to the Hunterdon County Cultural and Heritage Commission for a professional brochure had been denied.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Programs:**

*November Open House:* Fifty people attended the event and \$136 in donations were received.

*December Open House:* The event will be held on December 4<sup>th</sup> and will include open hearth cooking, dancing and a needle case craft.

*January Cooking Class:* The Program Director requested the Committee to approve an open hearth cooking class to be held on January 29<sup>th</sup>. The event will cost \$40 per person and will be limited to eight people on a first come, first serve basis. Erin Brennan moved that the proposed class be approved. Helen Farrant seconded the motion and it was unanimously

RESOLVED, that the Museums hold an open hearth cooking class on January 29<sup>th</sup> at the Bouman Stickney Farmstead at the cost of forty dollars (\$40.00) per person and with a limit of eight (8) attendees.

*February Open House: Cooking with Mother Goose*

**October Events:** The Program Director noted that if we receive the \$3000 grant from the New Jersey Historic Trust and the New Jersey Council for the Humanities, we will be able to hold an exhibit from October 19 – 28. As preparations for the exhibit will be underway at the Bouman Stickney Farmstead, the October 7<sup>th</sup> open house will be held at Cold Brook School. It will give the Museums an opportunity to showcase this property to the public.

**Properties:**

**Eversole Hall House:** Jim Horvath noted that road construction is being done on Route 523 in front of the Hall House. The Committee remembered that the last time 523 was under construction the drainage was compromised, causing damage to the Hall House. Jim will address the matter with Scott Jesseman.

**Collections Policy:** Erin noted that she had received no comments on the proposed policy. The Collections Subcommittee members agreed to provide comments within two weeks.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**2012 Organizational Meeting:** Jim advised that the 2012 organizational meeting will be held on Thursday, January 5, 2012 at 7:30 p.m. at the Bouman Stickney Farmstead, at which time officers will be elected and the schedule for the remaining 2012 meetings will be set.

**Additional Laptop:** The Program Director advised that it was difficult for her and the Museum Assistant to work together with only one computer. She noted that there was additional money in the budget to purchase a laptop on sale. Erin moved that up to one thousand dollars be approved for the purchase of a laptop. Betty Ann seconded the motion and it was unanimously

RESOLVED, that the Program Director be, and she hereby is, authorized to spend up to one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) to purchase a laptop computer; and it is

FURTHER RESOLVED, that if the purchase set forth in the foregoing resolution not be accomplished during 2011, the amount be encumbered from the 2011 budget.

**Costumes:** The Program Director advised that a number of the costumes were in poor condition and needed to be replaced. Betty Ann moved that up to ten (10) boys' shirts be purchased if there were sufficient funds remaining in the budget. Helen seconded the motion and it was unanimously

RESOLVED, that the Program Director be, and she hereby is, authorized to purchase up to ten (10) period correct boys' shirts to be used during the school programs; *provided, however* that sufficient funds remain in the 2011 budget to accomplish such purchase; and it is

FURTHER RESOLVED, that if the purchase set forth in the foregoing resolution not be accomplished during 2011, the amount be encumbered from the 2011 budget.

**Mary Jean DiRoberto:** Betty Ann noted that Mary Jean DiRoberto, the Readington Township School District Supervisor of Humanities, was retiring at the end of the year. Betty Ann moved that the Committee recognize her for the support she has given the Museums during her tenure. Erin seconded the motion and the following resolution was unanimously passed:

WHEREAS, during her tenure as Supervisor of Humanities of the Readington Township School District, Mary Jean DiRoberto has recognized the benefits of the Museums as a tool to educate the children of Readington Township in local, state and national history; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. DiRoberto has provided the Museums valued support by promoting the school district's use of Museum Programs and, in particular, by making the Museums' school programs an integral part of the school district's social studies curriculum; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. DiRoberto will retire on December 31, 2011.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED, that the Museum Committee hereby expresses their appreciation for the work and support Mrs. DiRoberto has provided the Museums; and it is

FURTHER RESOLVED, that Museum Committee wishes Mrs. DiRoberto success during her retirement and hopes to continue a relationship in the future.

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

Respectfully submitted,

  
Erin Brennan  
Secretary