

THE READINGTON MUSEUMS
MUSEUM COMMITTEE
MEETING
April 7, 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, Betty Ann Fort, Erin Brennan, Nancy O'Malley, Joyce Lykes, Program Director Kim Costa, and Township Committee Member Frank Gatti. A quorum of Committee members was present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Betty Ann Fort moved to approve the minutes from the March 3, 2011 meeting. Nancy O'Malley 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 it.

2011 PROGRAMS:

First Grade: The program was a success, earning kudos from parents. Two school officials observed sessions.

Fifth Grade: The program will be held on May 16, 17, 18, 23, and 26. The Program Director does not yet know if the college intern will be available.

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

Sunday Open House: Forty-two people attended the April 3rd papermaking demonstration and \$100 in donations were received. The event was advertised in the Museums' newsletter, nj.com, NJTraveler, NJ Skylands and in the *Hunterdon County Democrat*. The May 1 open house will be a surveying demonstration. Betty Ann asked if a flyer could be distributed to all third graders. It was also suggested to send flyers to local engineering firms.

Other Community Events: Middle school family photos will be taken at the Bouman Stickney Farmstead on May 15. The barn dance will be held May 21.

Remember the Ladies: The program will be held June 11-12 for reenactors and other 18th century aficionados. Food and other expenses will be paid for from the entrance fees paid by attendees. The Program Director noted that a number of the attendees could not afford hotel accommodation and asked if they could sleep in the barn. Betty Ann advised the Program Director to inform the Township and the police and then moved that the barn be made available for those attendees who wished to sleep there. Joyce Lykes seconded the motion and it was unanimously

RESOLVED, that the barn at the Bouman Stickney Farmstead be made available as sleeping quarters for anyone attending the Remember the Ladies event on June 11 and 12.

BUDGET:

The Committee discussed the proposed Township budget with Frank Gatti. The Committee and the Program Director impressed upon Mr. Gatti that though the Museums were under budget in 2010, many building maintenance projects had to be addressed in 2011, such as the repair or replacement of the front stoop. Mr. Gatti noted that the stoop may be the Township's responsibility and should come from a \$30,000 fund set aside for historic Township properties.

OLD BUSINESS

ALHFAM: The Program Director advised that her attendance will cost \$294 and that lodging will be \$385. Betty Ann moved that the Museums pay for the Program Director's attendance fee and lodging. Joyce seconded the motion and it was unanimously

RESOLVED, that the Program Director's attendance at ALHFAM in June 2011 be, and it hereby is, authorized, approved and ratified; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Program Director's program fees and lodging be paid for out of the Museums' budget.

Floor: The floor will be painted at the end of June.

Costumes: The Program Director reported on seminars she attended at Williamsburg. She noted that at living history programs the children's costumes do not need to be historically accurate, but adults' costumes do. She then presented to the Committee three new adult costumes she made for a total cost of \$95.

Gardens: The Program Director emailed the leader of the Girl Scout troop taking over the gardens at the Eversole Hall House a list of correct plants. She was informed that they had already started seeds. The Committee authorized a payment of \$50 for them to obtain the correct plants.

NEW BUSINESS

Spring House at Stanton Ridge: Jim Horvath noted that an old spring house near Stanton Ridge was badly in need of repair. He learned that it was owned by the company that provided the sewer system for the development. The Committee agreed that if the owner agreed, it would make a good addition to the Bouman Stickney Farmstead.

Walkabout: The Committee reviewed the list of repairs and maintenance issues compiled from the Committee's walkabout of the grounds on March 19.

ADJOURNMENT: Betty Ann moved that the meeting be adjourned. Joyce seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 9:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Erin Brennan
Secretary