

THE READINGTON MUSEUMS
MUSEUM COMMITTEE
MEETING
January 5, 2012

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, Helen Farrant, Nancy O'Malley, Joyce Lykes, Program Director Kimberly Costa, and Museum Assistant Margaret Smith. A quorum of Committee members was present.

ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS:

Chairman: Jim Horvath asked for nominations for Chairman of the Committee. Erin Brennan nominated Jim Horvath and moved that the nominations be closed. Betty Ann Fort seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously passed and it was unanimously

RESOLVED, that Jim Horvath be appointed Chairman of the Museum Committee to serve until the next organizational meeting currently scheduled for January 2013.

Vice-Chairman: Jim then asked for nominations for Vice-Chairman. Betty Ann nominated Erin and moved that the nominations be closed. Joyce Lykes seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously passed and it was unanimously

RESOLVED, that Erin Brennan be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Museum Committee to serve until the next organizational meeting currently scheduled for January 2013.

Secretary: Jim then asked for nominations for Secretary. Betty Ann nominated Erin Brennan and moved that the nominations be closed. Joyce seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously passed and it was unanimously

RESOLVED, that Erin Brennan be appointed Secretary of the Museum Committee to serve until the next organizational meeting currently scheduled for January 2013.

Treasurer: Jim then asked for nominations for Treasurer. Erin nominated Nancy O'Malley and moved that the nominations be closed. Betty Ann seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously passed and it was unanimously

RESOLVED, that Nancy O'Malley be appointed Treasurer of the Museum Committee to serve until the next organizational meeting currently scheduled for January 2013.

Schedule of Meetings: The Program Director presented the 2012 Museum Committee Meeting Schedule to the Committee for review. Erin moved that the meetings be held on the first Thursday evening and the third Saturday morning of each month, at 7:30 p.m. and 9:30 a.m., respectively. Betty Ann seconded the motion. The Committee therefore unanimously

RESOLVED, that the 2011 Museum Committee Meeting dates be held on the first Monday evening and the third Saturday morning of each month, at 7:30 p.m. and 9:30 a.m., respectively; and it is

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Program Director is hereby authorized and empowered to work with the Township Administrator to have the schedule of meetings published in accordance with N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq., the Open Public Meetings Act.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Betty Ann Fort moved to approve the minutes from the December 1, 2011 meeting. Nancy O'Malley seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously passed.

PROGRAM DIRECTOR AND MUSEUM ASSISTANT'S REPORT: The Committee reviewed and discussed the reports. The Program Director mentioned that the grant application to the New Jersey Council for the Humanities for funding an exhibit had been denied. The Council's reasons for the denial included the lack of a university professor to conduct the research for the exhibit. She also advised that an application for a grant from the New Jersey Historic Trust will be submitted by the February 1st deadline. The grant will cover salary, Fall programming, mannequins for costume display and a brochure. The Program also reported that a new laptop to be used by the Museum Assistant was purchased for \$599.00.

OLD BUSINESS:

Guest House: Jim reported on the meeting with Scott Jesseman and a meeting will be set up with Stryker Heating and Cooling to discuss HVAC systems for the property.

Programs:

December Open House: One hundred ten (110) people attended the St. Niklaas event. Donations of \$100 were received.

January Cooking Class: The Program Director advised that the open hearth cooking class to be held on January 29th was full. A waiting list has been started and the Museums will consider holding a second class at a later date

February Open House: Press releases for "Cooking with Mother Goose" have been sent out.

First Grade Program: The program's February dates will be February 6, 7, 8 and 9.

Collections Policy: The Committee reviewed and discussed the latest version of the collections policy, including the possibility of declining gifts. The final policy will be presented to the Committee for approval at next month's meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

Budget: The Program Director will ask Tom Caro when the 2012 budget will be due.

Readington Museums Trust: Betty Ann asked the Committee to consider how the money in the Trust, which was originally set up to be used for acquisitions to the Museums' collections and

their maintenance, could be used for programming and other costs. The Committee discussed the possibility of using the trust money for the much needed circuitry and heating for the third floor of the Bouman Stickney Farmstead. Jim will talk with Tom Caro about the matter.

1820's Flag: The Committee discussed the mysterious replacement of the 1820's flag at the Eversole Hall House with a modern one. Jim asked the Program Director to see if we had another flag as he remembered purchasing two.

Purchases: The Program Director advised that she had seen several interesting and unique pictures of Dorothy Stickney and Howard Lindsay for sale. Betty Ann moved that the Program Director be authorized to spend up to \$300.00 from the Museum Trust for the items. Helen Farrant seconded the motion and it was unanimously

RESOLVED, that the Program Director be, and she hereby is, authorized to spend up to three hundred dollars (\$300.00) from the Readington Museum Trust to purchase photographs of Howard Lindsay and Dorothy Stickney.

The Program Director also advised that the antique teapot on display in the Bouman Stickney Farmstead exposed the valuable piece to harm, given its accessibility to the public. Since the room is somewhat small, the piece was in danger of being bumped and broken. She asked the Committee to approve the purchase of a reproduction teapot. The reproduction could be used in an interpretive setting while the antique piece would be brought out only for special occasions. Betty Ann moved that the Program Director be authorized to spend up to \$300.00 from the Museum Trust for a reproduction teapot. Joyce seconded the motion and it was unanimously

RESOLVED, that the Program Director be, and she hereby is, authorized to spend up to three hundred dollars (\$300.00) from the Readington Museum Trust to purchase a reproduction 18th century teapot for display and use at the Bouman Stickney Farmstead.

ADJOURNMENT: Betty Ann moved that the meeting be adjourned. Joyce seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Erin Brennan
Secretary