

THE READINGTON MUSEUMS
MUSEUM COMMITTEE
MEETING
June 7, 2012

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, Erin Brennan, Betty Ann Fort, Joyce Lykes, Helen Farrant, Nancy O'Malley, 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 May 3, 2012 meeting, as amended. Helen Farrant seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously passed.

MUSEUM ASSISTANT'S REPORT: The Committee reviewed and discussed the museum assistant's report.

BUSINESS:

Programs:

Fifth Grade: The program went well despite the inclement weather. Parents offered good feedback. There were several absences this year, which the Committee surmised may have been caused by the increased fees imposed by the school. The Committee agreed that the fifth grade program is the most expensive due to the number of outside paid crafters, but the Museums will continue to monitor fees.

Barn Dance: The May Barn Dance was a rousing success with eighty people attending, generating donations of \$248.

May Open House: Forty-four people attended the gunsmith's demonstration. \$15 was collected.

Monday Mornings at the Museum: This program, featuring crafts for children, will take place Monday mornings in July, beginning July 9th. It will run from 10:00 to 12:00 and cost \$3 per child. A flier has been created and advertisements have been placed on listserv and in the community news. Jim Horvath will advertise the program on the Eversole Hall House sign.

Properties:

Bouman Stickney Farmstead:

Electric: A permit has been received for the work.

Roof: Jeff Alte looked at the roof. He advised that the roof cannot be repaired. (It may be original.) However it will be fine until it leaks. No one, including workers, should be permitted on the roof.

Bees: The Museum Assistant advised that bees have been boring into the mortar of the stonework and getting into the house. Ehrlich sprayed where he could, but the mortar needs

repointing. The Museum Assistant will contact Curry (the mason who repaired the porch) for an estimate.

Alarm: Jim reported that he received a call from the alarm company on June 1. He entered the site with Readington Police after finding the door unlocked. Betty Ann noted that we need to verify the door is locked before we leave.

Railing: The Museum Assistant noted that Brittany, our intern, has returned. The Assistant and Brittany scraped and painted the railing.

Corncrib: The Committee discussed painting the corncrib and whether the current peeling paint contains lead. Helen will ask her husband, Jack, about the proper procedure¹.

Guest House: The Committee reviewed the plan to install new underground electric lines from the pole on Dreahook Road, providing for upgraded service. The Committee also expressed a desire to bury the telephone lines along with the electric. The cost estimate is \$20-25,000. The Museum has two sources of funding: (i) a capital bond held by the Township of \$90,000 for the renovation of the guest house; and (ii) the Museum Trust, which contains approximately \$60,000. Betty Ann explained the efficacy of using the money from the trust. Erin Brennan suggested using the bond since it is specifically for the guest house renovation; there may be other necessary major repairs that would require the use of the trust.

Betty Ann moved to accept the proposal to upgrade the electric service to the guest house and the Bouman Stickney Farmstead at a cost of \$20,000 to \$25,000, and that the work should be funded from the Museum Trust. Joyce Lykes seconded the motion. It was

RESOLVED, that the proposal to upgrade the electric service to the guest house and the Bouman Stickney Farmstead at a cost of \$20,000 to \$25,000, such service to include underground electrical and telephone wires from the pole on Dreahook Road be recommended to the Township Committee for approval; and it was

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the funding for the service upgrade set forth in the foregoing resolution be taken from the Museum Trust.

Jim, Betty Ann, Joyce, Helen and Nancy O'Malley voted in favor of the resolution. Erin voted against it.

ADJOURNMENT: Betty Ann moved that the meeting be adjourned. Joyce seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Erin Brennan
Secretary

¹ Subsequent to the meeting, the Program Director found a photo of the corncrib shortly after it was acquired in the 1990's. The corncrib was unpainted, evidencing that the peeling paint was applied after acquisition. Consequently the paint is lead-free.