

THE READINGTON MUSEUMS  
MUSEUM COMMITTEE  
MEETING  
October 4, 2012

Chairman Jim Horvath called the meeting to order at 7:32 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, Nancy O'Malley, Program Director Kimberly Costa and Museum Assistant Margaret Smith. A quorum of Committee members was present.

**PROGRAM DIRECTOR AND MUSEUM ASSISTANT'S REPORTS:** The Committee reviewed and discussed the reports. Nancy O'Malley asked the Program Director about the language in the press release regarding a suggested donation of \$5.00 to the open house. The Program Director stated that it had been left over from the press release for the summer lecture series. Jim Horvath advised the Program Director to be careful next time. The Committee also commended Museum Assistant Margaret Smith on her signs to be placed on Museum properties noting where events are being held. That should help to reduce the number of phone calls from people at the Eversole Hall House looking for an event being held at the Bouman Stickney Farmstead.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Betty Ann Fort moved to approve the minutes from the September 6, 2012 meeting. Joyce Lykes seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously passed.

**PROGRAMS:**

*Meeting with School Superintendent:* Betty Ann reported on the meeting with Barbara Sargent and other school district officials. The meeting was attended by Betty Ann, the Program Director, County Historian Stephanie Stevens, Superintendent Barbara Sargent, Humanities Supervisor Carrie McGann, and School Board President David Livingston.

Stephanie explained the history of the Museums and the Museum Programs and how they (i) represent an investment of time and support by Readington Township residents; and (ii) foster a strong connection to Readington Township and therefore a greater sense of citizenship. Betty Ann talked about how the Partners in History programs were developed together with Readington educators to be consistent with the schools' core curriculum. The Program Director showed a slide presentation and described the teachers' guides and how they correspond to specific points in the curriculum.

The Committee discussed the meeting and the reception by the school officials. Betty Ann mentioned that she did ask Carrie if all programs for the following school year could be scheduled in the spring so that the Museums could better prepare. The Committee also discussed the necessity of charging the school for the programs. The fees resulted from the school requiring professional craftspeople be hired for the fifth grade program. Betty Ann will find out if professionals are still needed.

*Cold Brook School Open House:* The Committee discussed the upcoming October 7<sup>th</sup> event.

**Properties:**

*Bouman Stickney Farmstead:*

Gutters: The Committee discussed adding gutters to the house to prevent moisture from getting into the kitchen. The plaster near one window has been badly damaged from such moisture. The gutters had been removed when the property was restored in the 1990's as they were not deemed to be historically correct. The Committee weighed authenticity against continued damage to the structure and agreed that brown, wooden, unobtrusive, removable gutters would suffice. Erin Brennan moved that the gutters be installed and Joyce seconded the motion. The Committee unanimously

RESOLVED, that brown, wooden, unobtrusive, removable gutters be installed on the house at the Bouman Stickney Farmstead in order to mitigate the continued moisture damage to the house; and it is

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Program Director be authorized to spend up to three thousand dollars (\$3,000.00) for the purchase and installation of the gutters.

Sulfur-Like Smell in Hot Water: The Committee discussed the persistent smell coming from the hot water. While most agreed that the smell is caused from bacteria reacting with the anodes in the hot water heater, the Committee also agreed that it would not be a bad idea to have the well tested when the other municipal buildings have theirs tested.

Valence: The Program Director is searching for an expert embroiderer and seamster to make a new valence to replace the one that went missing.

Rental Policy: The Program Director announced that the November wedding was cancelled. She also recommended that \$50 of the deposit be non-refundable to compensate Museum personnel for their time. Joyce made the motion; Betty Ann seconded it, and it was unanimously

RESOLVED, that the Museums' rental policy be amended so that fifty dollars (\$50.00) of the renter's deposit be non-refundable in the event of a cancellation; and it is

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the amendment referred to in the foregoing resolution shall apply only to new rental applications.

*Cold Brook School:* The Committee discussed cleaning the chimney, fixing the door latch and possible remedies for the mold on the stucco.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Betty Ann moved that the meeting be adjourned. Nancy seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Erin Brennan  
Secretary