

THE READINGTON MUSEUMS
MUSEUM COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
February 5, 2015

Chairman Jim Horvath called the meeting to order at 7:37 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, Helen Farrant, Joyce Lykes, Program Director Margaret Smith, and Intern Barbara Krasner. A quorum of Committee members was present. Committee Member Nancy O'Malley and Frank Gatti were absent.

WELCOME: Jim Horvath introduced the Museums' new intern, Barbara Krasner, to the Committee. Barbara is a graduate student at William Paterson University, studying public history. Jim also noted that Frank Gatti has been appointed a member of the Committee.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Helen Farrant moved to approve the minutes from the January 8, 2015 meeting, as amended. Joyce Lykes seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously passed with Betty Ann Fort abstaining.

PROGRAM DIRECTOR'S REPORT: The Committee reviewed and discussed the report.

PROGRAMS:

February Open House: Connie Unangst and Nichole Gerding gave an open hearth cooking presentation. Forty-five people attended.

March Open Houses: Nichole Gerding will be making butter and cheese on March 1st.

School Programs: Margaret Smith noted that the dates for the first and third grade programs have changed. To date no response has been received from the fifth grade teachers. Margaret will call them again.

Oral History Project: Barbara gave a presentation on oral history methods. The Committee discussed her project of interviewing Township residents and others who were acquainted with Dorothy Stickney and Howard Lindsay. The Committee then brainstormed possible uses for the work product generated from the project, including an exhibit, education, posting to the website.

Summer Lecture Series: The Committee discussed possible bookings for the Summer Lecture Series. Jim suggested contacting Dennis Bertland to give a lecture on the Whitehouse-Mechanicsville Historic District.

PROPERTIES:

Bouman Stickney Farmstead

Wycoff-Wade Barn: Helen reported that before Jim Knowles can provide an estimate for coating the barn, he has to speak with Jack Farrant regarding the product to use. A ballpark estimate would be in the area of \$1500. The Committee discussed taking the funds from the Museum Trust. Betty Ann asked Margaret to remind Mr. Knowles to drape the interior walls in plastic to prevent water from entering the barn.

Eversole Hall House:

Porch: The Committee discussed the replacement of the porch. Jim noted that a new footing would be needed. Betty Ann will call John Painter.

Sign: Jim noted that the Museum sign in front of the Eversole Hall House had been knocked over by flying snow, ice and other debris, caused by a speeding county snowplow during the recent storm. Margaret will ask Buildings and Grounds to restore the sign and will ask the Township Administrator if it was possible to seek reimbursement from the county.

Rentals: Margaret presented the following rental applications to the Committee for approval:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>
Phil Ratanski	May 30, 2015	Party
Lisa Oldender & Mitchell Gorsstein	June 27, 2015	Wedding
Denyse Pereira	May 7, 2016	Wedding
Laura Brackeen	May 21, 2016 (date change)	Wedding
Karen Beam (for Amanda Lengyel)	June 4, 2016	Wedding

Erin Brennan moved that the rental applications and revision as submitted to the Committee be approved. Joyce seconded the motion and it was unanimously

RESOLVED, that the rental applications and revision as submitted to the Committee be, and they hereby are, authorized, approved and ratified.

Margaret noted that rentals are scheduled for most weekends from May – October 2015. The Committee discussed placing the rental calendar (without details, just whether or not the farmstead is available) on the Museums’ website.

OTHER:

Facebook Page: Jim advised the Committee of a Facebook page for Whitehouse Station residents. The page has approximately 750 members. Jim has posted notices of Museum events there.

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

Respectfully submitted,



Erin Brennan
Vice-Chair and Secretary