

THE READINGTON MUSEUMS
MUSEUM COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
March 19, 2015

Vice-Chairman Erin Brennan 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 (arrived later), 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 Frank Gatti was absent.

EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT: Alex Jaszyn, an Eagle Scout candidate from Troop 288, presented a proposal to build decorative covers for the septic vents at the Bouman Stickney Farmstead. He had already discussed his project with Buildings and Grounds (Todd Rainey and Scott Jesseman), who advised that his covers could not be permanent structures so that access to the septic tank could be guaranteed. After discussion and a walk to the site, Betty Ann Fort moved that the Committee should encourage Alex to continue with a project to build a well and a grain bin to cover the septic vents, and to return to the Committee's meeting on May 7, 2015 with detailed plans. Joyce Lykes seconded the motion and it was

RESOLVED, that the Museum Committee hereby authorizes Alex Jaszyn to continue his work on his Eagle Scout Project to build a well and a grain bin to cover the septic tank vents at the Bouman Stickney Farmstead and to return to the Museum Committee's meeting on May 7, 2015 with detailed plans.

The resolution was passed unanimously, with Jim Horvath abstaining.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Jim moved to approve the minutes from the February 5, 2015 meeting. Helen Farrant seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously passed with Nancy O'Malley abstaining.

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

PROGRAMS:

Open Houses: Eight people attended the butter making program on March 1. The open house was cut short due to inclement weather. Architect Chris Pickell will be doing a walk on April 12. Margaret asked if we wanted the Hunterdon Central Fiddlers to come as well. The Committee agreed and Betty Ann Fort suggested adding a slide show on earlier programs.

School Programs:

First Grade: The program went well. Margaret Smith asked if the story could be eliminated to allow for more hands on experiences. The Committee discussed and agreed.

Fifth Grade: The Fifth Grade teachers finally came back with dates during the week of April 27. Despite the short notice, Margaret was able to engage crafters.

Summer Lecture Series: The Committee discussed possible bookings for the Summer Lecture Series. June and July are still open.

PROPERTIES:

Bouman Stickney Farmstead

Trees: Margaret presented a proposal from Bartlett Tree Experts to treat the fruit trees as they did last year. The estimate, which was unsolicited, came to \$1134. Erin Brennan asked Nancy to ask the County Extension office how often the trees should be treated.

Wycoff-Wade Barn: Helen reported that Jim Knowles would like to know if he should be responsible for draping the interior walls in plastic. The Committee agreed that he should do it. Helen will also ask Jack Farrant if there will be a smell and how long it will last.

Eversole Hall House:

Porch: Jim reported that he could not find a carpenter to replace the porch.

Sign: Jim reported that Chuck Waters will make a new large sign. He also reported that the National Register sign was destroyed as well. He will look into getting a replacement.

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

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>
Matthew Sidler	May 9, 2015	Eagle Scout Ceremony
Leigh Hollis	September 26, 2015	Wedding

Jim moved that the rental application of Matthew Sidler be approved and that the Museums should waive the rental fee as his Eagle Scout project consisted of birdhouses for the Bouman Stickney Farmstead. Helen seconded the motion and it was unanimously

RESOLVED, that the rental application of Matthew Sidler as submitted to the Committee be, and it hereby is, authorized, approved and ratified; and it is

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Museum Committee authorizes and approves the waiver of the rental fee for Matthew Sidler, in appreciation for constructing the bluebird houses on the Museum's property as part of his Eagle Scout project.

Jim then moved that the rental application of Leigh Hollis be approved and that the Museums should agree to the Township Resident rental rate, as Peter Hollis (father of Leigh) was instrumental in the restoration of the barn and the operation of the Museums. Betty Ann seconded the motion and it was unanimously

RESOLVED, that the rental application of Leigh Hollis as submitted to the Committee be, and it hereby is, authorized, approved and ratified; and it is

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Museum Committee authorizes and approves charging Leigh Hollis the Township Resident rate.

OTHER:

Oral History Project: Barbara Krasner gave an update on the oral history project. She sent letters out to various people but received no response. The Committee suggested having a kick-off party on April 18 and brainstormed people to invite. The invitation will be send on Museum letterhead.

Buffalo Watch: Margaret was asked by the Readington River Buffalo Farm if the Museums would like to have a table at the farm's annual Buffalo Watch fundraiser for the Whitehouse Rescue Squad on May 16. The Committee agreed to decline this year, but perhaps participate in a future event.

New Jersey Historical Commission Mini-Grants Barbara reported on a presentation on mini-grant submissions given by Sara R. Cureton, the Executive Director of the New Jersey Historical Commission. The Committee discussed possible projects that may be eligible for a mini-grant.

Municipal Building Exhibit: The Committee brainstormed ideas for a new exhibit and decided on the egg and poultry industry that was prevalent in Readington during the early 20th century.

ADJOURNMENT: Betty Ann moved that the meeting be adjourned. Joyce seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 9:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Erin Brennan
Vice-Chair and Secretary