

THE READINGTON MUSEUMS
MUSEUM COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
April 7, 2016

Vice-Chairman Sheila Paciullo called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m. She announced that all laws governing the Open Public Meetings Act had been met and that the meeting had been duly advertised.

PRESENT: Committee Members Nancy O'Malley, Sheila Paciullo, Joyce Lykes, Mario Orlandi, Margaret Smith, and Helen Farrant attended. A quorum of Committee members was present. Also in attendance were two members of the public. Committee Member Erin Brennan and Township Liaison Betty Ann Fort were absent.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Joyce Lykes moved to approve the minutes from the March 3, 2016 meeting. Nancy O'Malley seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously passed.

BUSINESS -

PROGRAM DIRECTOR'S REPORT: The Committee reviewed and discussed the report. Arranged with Climbing High Chimney to clean the chimney and flue. The flue has a new (not serious) crack. It will be repaired when Climbing High Chimney returns in July/August.

BUDGET: (OPERATING BUDGET)

We are in a holding pattern, waiting for additional information from the county.

PROGRAMS: past

March 6:

- The Sunday Open House focused on buttermaking.
- Approximately 40 people learned a lot and had fun.
- Contributions totaled \$29.

April 3:

- Even on a blustery day, Rich Wagner presented a lively beer making demonstration for the Sunday Open House.
- 35 people attended.
- The press was there to film for a Fios broadcast.
- Contributions totaled \$74.

PROGRAMS: upcoming

School Programs :

- All school programs are ready to go.

PROPERTIES:

Bouman Stickney Farmstead:

Apple Trees

- Originally the plan was to plant the apple trees on 4/9. The weather for that date looks iffy.
- Margaret will check with Dan Allen to see if he is available for 4/16.

Chimney & Flue

- See above.

Rentals

- No new rental requests.

Bluebird Box Maintenance

- Mario noticed that of the 10 Bluebird boxes on the property, only 1 had been used this past year. This is most likely due to the fact that they had not been cleaned. (They should be cleaned in late February/early March.)
- So – THANK YOU, Mario – for cleaning them.
- A suggestion was made to add this task to the community service list.
- For now, on-going maintenance was deferred to the next meeting.

Caterer – Phil Hershbine (Taste Like a Memory)

- Phil (a caterer for 30 years, who has catered at the Bouman – Stickney and other barn venues) commented on his experience with barn rentals and where/how our barn compares.
- Of note was that while ours was one of the best locations, our rental prices are considerably underpriced. (A similar, although privately-owned barn, located in Oxford is priced at \$3,000 - \$5,000 per event depending on the day.)
- A few items to consider for improvement –
 - A special pad for the outhouses and lighting to that area,
 - A gravel path to the barn.
 - Enlarge that gravel path from the barn to the tents. (Mud issue.)
 - Parking signage.
 - A marketing packet for potential renters.

Smokehouse – Eagle Scout Project

- All labor for the project is being donated.
- Derek Scott will co-ordinate with the museum for time when work can begin.
- Derek is requesting for a maximum of \$700 funding from the museum.
- Nancy O'Malley made the motion to provide up to \$700 from the museum trust fund for the Eagle Scout Smokehouse Project. Mario Orlandi seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously passed.

Eversole-Hall:

- The spotlights have been adjusted.

Cold Brook School: (nothing to report)

Taylor's Mill: (nothing to report)

OTHER:

Mike Alfano – Historian : Deferred for next meeting.

New Intern: No progress.

Open Museum Signs: No progress.

ADJOURNMENT: Joyce moved that the meeting be adjourned. Nancy seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Helen Farrant
Secretary