

THE READINGTON MUSEUMS
MUSEUM COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING

May 4, 2017

Chairman Sheila Paciullo called the meeting to order at 7:37 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 Sheila Paciullo, Sarah John, Joyce Lykes, Nancy O'Malley, Mario Orlandi, Rene Rao, and Museum Director, Margaret Smith attended. A quorum of Committee members was present. Committee member, Helen Farrant, and Township Liaison, Betty Ann Fort, were absent. Also in attendance was Robert Becker representing the Open Space Advisory Board.

UPDATE FROM OSAB:

Robert Becker for the Open Space Advisory Board presented on issues relevant to Museums properties, specifically with regard to the Bouman-Stickney Farmstead.

- 1) Trees: Bob described the tree commission and their goals to identify various trees around the township, especially the Ash trees which are vulnerable to the Emerald Ash Borer. There are an unknown number of these older trees on the property, and the commission is hoping to inventory the property trees next year. There will be funds to treat some, but not all, of the Ash trees in the township.
- 2) Deer Management: According to a Raritan Valley Community College student survey, our county is at approximately four times our recommended capacity of deer. This has a negative impact on our forests. Bob requests that the committee consider opening the 90 acres of the Bouman-Stickney Farmstead property to bow hunting. The season would last from October through March, and would not allow hunting on Sundays. The area directly around the Farmstead itself would not need to be included in the area open to hunting, and the Museums committee would be able to determine the boundary lines for hunting on the remaining acreage. The OSAB would like a decision on this ASAP.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Nancy O'Malley moved to approve the minutes from the March 2, 2017 meeting as amended. Joyce Lykes seconded the motion. The motion was passed.

BUSINESS -

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

PROPERTIES:

Bouman Stickney Farmstead:

Lights for Porta-Potty

- Rene obtained a beautiful set of lanterns to provide visual access to the porta-john and the pathway from the barn. Unfortunately, the Shepard's hooks to hang them from were discontinued,

but she plans to check the local hardware/home improvement stores to see what they have available instead.

- Additionally, Sheila obtained “tap-lights” for use inside the porta-potty itself.

Eagle Scout Ceremony

- The committee reviewed the Eagle Scout request for the rental of the barn for his ceremony on June 4th. Sarah motioned for approval and Joyce seconded. The motion was passed.

Eversole-Hall: The house needs to be cleaned before the 3rd grade program on May 17th.

Cold Brook School: Nothing to report

PROGRAMS: past

Partners in History—5th grade program

- Complete.
- Costume bins are ready to take for cleaning: the committee divided the bins amongst themselves. All clean costumes need to be returned by May 13th

PROGRAMS: upcoming

May 7th Open House: 18th Century Ice Cream

- Presentation will take place in the barn
- There will be an opportunity for samples for those who assist in the ice cream making process
- The same trio of committee members will work together to set out the signs

May 7th: Lecture on Colonial Architecture

- Given by the Tewksbury Historical Society
- Direct conflict with our Ice Cream lecture, so Margaret will possibly contact the Society for more information about the speaker and the talk itself

May 13th Barn Dance:

- Nancy volunteered to obtain refreshments and ice for the event

Partners in History School Program:

- The third grade programs run from May 17th to the 25th. Entirely ready except for the laundering of the costumes.

SUB-COMMITTEE:

- Discussed proposal for establishing a sub-committee for buildings and grounds projects
- Sub-committee would be donating their time toward the research of options for completing some of our major upkeep tasks, as well as to create a network of reliable vendors and contractors to complete work of a historically accurate nature.
- Sub-committee would be head by Mario
- Sheila has a list of potential projects for a starting point
- Joyce made the motion to approve a buildings and grounds sub-committee for the purpose of gaining additional volunteers and providing research. Rene seconded. The motion passed.

OTHER:

Saturday Meeting with Stephanie Stevens:

- Saturday, May 20th from 9:30-11:30. There was talk of coffee.

Cultural Heritage Community Day:

- Sunday June 3rd. Margaret will attend with possibly other members joining to assist. Era-appropriate games will be offered for children to play.

ADJOURNMENT: Joyce moved that the meeting be adjourned. Nancy seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 10:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah John
Substitute Secretary