

## **Port Penn Historical Society Quarterly Meeting**

### **Minutes**

**Meeting on June 1, 2023 at Parks Headquarters, Fort DuPont Complex – 6:30pm to 7:30pm**

Those present: Linda Beck, Tracy Beck, Nancy Cornish, Guy Harrington, Julie Harrington, Wes Jones, Jennifer Naylor and Jeff Reed. From Parks, Jake Miller and Mark Wise.

Those absent: John Chaney, Carleen Czajowski, Jesse Laing, Laura Lee, David Orr and John Ringer.

**Minutes from March 2, 2023 Meeting:** Jennifer emailed Minutes March 3rd. Motion to approve Minutes by Tracy Beck and seconded by Wes Jones.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer's Report and 2023 Budget emailed to Board by Wes Jones as of March 31, 2023.

At this time we are well within our Budget and ahead of schedule. Next quarter will reflect additional donations received. Will need to obtain new D&O Insurance coverage. Will discuss at a later date once quotes have been obtained.

Motion to accept Treasurer's Report by Linda Beck and seconded by Nancy Cornish.

### **On-going PROJECTS:**

**2022 Flag Flying Days:** Need to purchase about 4 new brackets/holders. John Chaney will purchase and install new hardware this month. Suggestion to leave flags up until July 4<sup>th</sup> was accepted by the Board. Flags will now be up for Memorial Day, Flag Day and July 4<sup>th</sup> consecutively.

#### **2023 Flag Flying Days:**

Flags are flown 3 days before and after the holiday:

*Memorial Day, Monday, May 29 (flags to stay up through 07/04)*

*Flag Day, Wednesday, June 14*

*Independence Day, Tuesday, July 4*

*Labor Day, Monday, September 4 (flags to stay up through 09/11)*

*Patriot's Day, Monday, September 11*

*Veteran's Day, Saturday, November 11*

**Banners:** Summer Banners are up. The new brackets and banners purchased for light pole in front of 3 E. Market Street have been received and added starting with Summer. The Stewart Heroes Banner has been received.

**Storage at Delaware City Library:** PPAHS continues to look for storage. All items are still being stored at Linda Beck's house. David Baylor, the Delaware City Manager, said he would contact Tim Slavin from Fort DuPont Redevelopment Corp. and ask again about storage solutions for the four local non-profits.

**Scanning and Archiving of PPAHS Materials:** This project is still on hold due to our storage issue.

**Augustine Beach Trees:** Trees were mulched on Saturday, May 6th. Everything is looking good. Big thanks to the Cutting Edge for donating the mulch and the great group of volunteers that helped. The winterberries for around the Historic Marker were not planted at this time instead will be planted in the Fall.

**PPAHS T-Shirts:** Are available for sale, promote these as you can. We have currently sold and delivered around 20 shirts.

**Waterman Statue:** On April 19<sup>th</sup> the statue was removed by the Cutting Edge and delivered to the Philadelphia Shipyard on May 4<sup>th</sup>. Jeff Reed was able to get a video of the removal. Have not received a bill for this project from the Cutting Edge as of yet.

## **2023 PROJECTS:**

- **Waterman Statue:** This will be our largest expense and will probably carry over into 2024/2025. Julie Harrington and Linda Beck visited various metal sculptors. On April 24<sup>th</sup> Julie Harrington sent an email to the Board detailing these visits. Three artists were presented and the Board agreed to pursue a new Waterman Statue with Matt Harris. Due to the estimated cost of this project we would first like to get a cost for the sketch and once received another vote will be done on moving forward. Matt Harris's work is iron and meant to rust which will be ideal for our needs. Suggestion made, once we are moving forward with this project, to visit Matt's workshop. He was provided pictures of both Waterman Statues and was told we liked the first statue we had better than the second. Wes Jones made a motion to approve getting the sketch and the cost for that. Guy Harrington seconded.
- **Audit:** An Audit of the PPAHS books was done on March 18<sup>th</sup>. All the bank statements, receipts and Treasurer's Reports were audited, and everything is in order. This was done by Linda Beck, Nancy Cornish, Sam Eaton and Wes Jones.
- **Entrance Signs:** Signs are in need of weed whacking. Jeff Reed will take care of this.
- **Stewart Cemetery:** The grass is being cut by Priority Services twice a month. John Chaney and Jennifer Naylor will report on the condition of the cemetery for the next meeting.
- **Oral History Project:** Linda Beck will continue working on this project. She will focus on the stores, post offices, bars/taverns, churches and farms of Port Penn next, in the same fashion as her article in the newsletter on the Port Penn School House. Linda Beck prefers to tell her remembrances in story form. Bob Willoughby, whose family has been farming since 1933, provided information about his farm to Laura Frick for the Museum refresh.
- **New Members Banner:** Can be placed on the corner of the Cleaver House lawn to promote new membership. The only conditions to this placement would be if someone takes over the Curatorship of the Cleaver House or the placement of the sign invites others to place their signs on the lawn. If a problem arises the banner can be moved to the fence of the Interpretive Center.

**2023 Meeting Dates:** October 1<sup>st</sup> and December 7<sup>th</sup>. Members Event in place of October meeting, tentative October 1<sup>st</sup>, still looking at the Augustine Inn for the event. Linda Beck and Julie Harrington will visit the Inn and inquire.

**Parks Report:** Mark Wise and Jake Miller

- **Port Penn Museum:** The Museum is closed until further notice. While doing the museum refresh it was determined there were structural issues with the building. The building is being evaluated by an Engineering Firm and their first report has led to needing another report on the attic and the roof. Once all the reports have been submitted an architect will have to take a look and make a

recommendation on how to proceed. This will then all be submitted to Planning Preservation and Development at Parks. Parks is hoping to have all the reports submitted within a month. There is no concrete timeline on the entire issue but Parks would guess at minimum a year to make a determination but that is really just speculation. The Board has made it clear this is a priority for us and that we want the building repaired. This is an ongoing issue and will be discussed more going forward.

- **Museum Programming:** Due to the closure of the Museum there will be no programming inside. The Town Tours and walks will go on as scheduled. Anything inside will be held at Parks Headquarters at the Fort DuPont Complex. Changes will be posted to all Parks Social Media. The PPAHS will share the information on our Social Media. Tracy Beck suggested a flyer be placed in the Bulletin Board at the Museum. Jake Miller will take care of that tomorrow.
- **Cleaver House Resident Curatorship:** Parks has someone who is very seriously interested in the Cleaver House. The couple has successfully participated in this sort of project before. Information regarding the Curatorship can be found here: <https://destateparks.com/Curator/CleaverHouse>. To sweeten the deal a bit Parks has offered to handle the electric and HVAC.
- **Bike Station:** Once Parks has the go ahead on the location the concrete pad can be installed. This can be done as soon as tomorrow, 06/02/23.
- **Market Square Parking Lot:** There are no plans to do anything with this piece of property at this time.
- **Muskrat Shack:** This is a dormant issue at this time. Suggestion made to form a committee for the future to research all options; replacement or rebuild and a way to keep this project alive. At this time the main focus is on the Interpretive Center so this will be revisited in the future. Tracy Beck suggested in the interim that a sign of some sort with pictures of the original Shack as well as information on it be placed at the location.

**Motion to adjourn by Wes Jones.**