

Port Penn Historical Society Quarterly Meeting

Minutes

Meeting on March 4, 2021 at the Port Penn Interpretive Center – 6:30pm to 7:30pm

Those present: Linda Beck, Carleen Czajowski, John Chaney, Nancy Cornish, Guy Harrington, Julie Harrington, Becky Herman, Wes Jones, Laura Lee, Jennifer Naylor, David Orr, Jeff Reed and Jake Miller from Parks.

Those absent: Tracy Beck, Jesse Laing, John Ringer and Ruth Smith.

Welcome to new Board Members Nancy Cornish and Jeff Reed.

Minutes from December 3, 2020 Meeting: Jennifer emailed Minutes 01/24/21. Motion to approve Minutes by Carleen Czajowski and seconded by Guy Harrington.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer's Report emailed to Board by Wes Jones as of January 31, 2021, Delaware Community Fund as of December 31, 2020.

*Note: There is still an outstanding bill for the new flags ordered but not received.
Tracy Beck and Julie Harrington will be working on the 2021 Budget.*

Motion to accept Treasurer's Report by Carleen Czajowski and seconded by Linda Beck.

On-going PROJECTS:

Flags: New flags were ordered in August, still waiting for delivery. Poles are in. New flags will be marked with "Property of PPAHS".

2021 Flag Flying Days: John Chaney volunteered to handle all the flag day but will reach out for assistance if needed or he is unable to hang flags.

Flags are flown 3 days before and after the holiday:

Memorial Day, Monday, May 31

Flag Day, Monday, June 14

Independence Day, Sunday, July 4

Labor Day, Monday, September 6 (flags to stay up through 09/11)

Patriot Day, Saturday, September 11

Veteran's Day, Thursday, November 11

Banners: Summer Banners will be hung by Guy Harrington on May 1, 2021. Veteran's Banners will be hung November 1, 2021 through December 1, 2021. Winter Banners will go up after. There is space for one more Veteran's Banner. John Chaney suggested sponsoring a Banner for Dr. David Stewart or another historic figure associated with Port Penn. Wes Jones will reach out to the Stewart family for an image for the Banner.

Historic House Plaques in Port Penn: Carleen Czajowski and Guy Harrington will distribute the remainder of the plaques once the weather improves. Suggestion made to have a plaque made for the Reedy Island House at Augustine Beach. Julie Harrington will reach out to determine cost since it will just be one sign. Verbiage on the sign will need to change since the house is not within Port Penn. Jeff

Reed suggested an article being written on the Reedy Island House tying in with the current pandemic as the house was originally a quarantine house/infirmary.

Motion to approve new Plaque by Linda Beck and seconded by Carleen Czajowski.

Storage at Delaware City Library: No update and no payment made for storage. We do have access. Julie Harrington presented that there is an inventory of what is in the closet but we do not have an inventory of historic information and the documents etc. we have. Suggested we start a digital history/catalog.

Augustine Beach Historic Marker: Dedication date to be determined once there is a replacement for Katie Hall's position. Sign is fully funded.

Augustine Beach Trees: Trees need to be evaluated over the Summer to determine if replacements are needed. Three estimates are needed for the grant for new trees. We were unable to apply for the grant in 2021 due to the nurseries being closed and the application due in March. Will get the estimates on company letterhead in the Fall to submit for a grant in Spring 2022. Will need to spruce up the area where the Historic Market will be placed once it is installed. Linda Beck and Julie Harrington met with Fish and Wildlife on Friday, December 18, 2020. F&W has removed the picnic tables and are willing to replace two of these with composite material tables. Once cost is determined it will be presented to the Board. F&W will be placing screens around the porta-potties. Would not replace with compost bathrooms due to maintenance. Also discussed carefully mowing around existing trees to not cause damage to the tree bark, water management, wildlife nesting boxes and repair of the north end of the boardwalk in Lang Marsh. Jake Miller stated discussions were being held with Parks and Fish and Wildlife to determine boundaries. Jake will follow up.

2021 PROJECTS:

- **Port Penn Interpretive Center:** More plants needed. John Chaney suggested focusing on native plants like Echinacea (Coneflower) and Rudbeckia (Black-Eyed Susan) both of which would do very well at the location.
- **Bike Repair Station:** Tracy Beck and Wes Jones suggested researching a Bike Repair Station to be placed at the Port Penn Interpretive Center. Wes Jones will reach out to Velo Amis, a non-profit centered around giving back through cycling and running events, in regards to sponsoring the station.
- **Member's Event/Anniversary Event:** Member's Event moved to Fall due to Covid. Suggested a date in September or October that will also replace the 09/02/21 meeting. Suggested having a tent outside at the Cleaver House and being able to tour the inside. Jake Miller will check with Cultural Resources. June 29, 1981 is the date the PPAHS was incorporated so this will also be our 40th Anniversary and we will also celebrate this at the Members Event. Will need a porta-potty.
- **Oral History Project:** Determined to move forward with this and the first step will be David Orr reaching out to the University of Delaware for a professional opinion on the best way to get this project moving. Suggested that we seek out an unbiased group with training that will transcribe, digitize and make accessible.
- **Post Card for Port Penn Residents:** This is still a work in progress. Tracy Beck and Wes Jones have supplied some ideas ranging from how many of this type of business were in town as well as did you know this used to be a type of business. First postcard discussed to be about the Port Penn Interpretive Center. Jeff Reed suggested starting with a map to be used like an advent calendar for

the other postcards with locations. Another suggestion was how many locations were the Post Office.

- **Port Penn T-Shirts:** Spaceboy is still in business so Julie Harrington will be reaching out to them for new t-shirts. Suggested two new animals, snapping turtle and muskrat.

2021 Meeting Dates: June 3rd and December 2nd. September meeting will be Member's Event. Date to be determined.

Parks Report: Jake Miller

- **Interpretive Center:** Parks has suspended all live programming due to Covid. This might affect March programs. The furnace has been replaced as well as the flooring. There are also new drain pipes installed to prevent the water damage that perpetuated the furnace and floor replacement. The museum refresh discussed at the last meeting is in the works with the earliest completion being Spring 2022. Signs will be updated and the plans hope to create more of a path through the collections. The punt gun will be part of this refresh and placed in the museum. There is a possibility of moving a boat to the museum but space is limited. All plans will be presented to the Board to brainstorm and vote in or out. Parks would like to keep the original plan of the museum just refresh what is established. Discussed the possibility of a rotating exhibit and audio stations with oral history.
- **Grass Dale:** No firm date on when Parks will be moving out of Grass Dale. No firm date on new campground at Grass Dale.
- **Wayside Signs:** edits have been submitted to Creative Services. They are backed up so it may be some time before the new signs are received. Once received they will be installed.

Miscellaneous:

- Linda Beck and Julie Harrington will provide list of correct spelling and other errors on the Wayside signs to Parks.
- Requests for more t-shirts that were designed for the Wetland Festival. Julie Harrington will see if the company used is still in business and reach out.

Motion to adjourn by Wes Jones at 7:31pm.