

Port Penn Historical Society Quarterly Meeting

Minutes

Meeting on September 3, 2020 at the Port Penn Interpretive Center – 6:30pm to 7:30pm

Those present: Tracy Beck, Carleen Czajowski, Guy Harrington, Wes Jones, Jesse Laing, Laura Lee, Jennifer Naylor, David Orr and Mika Drake and Jake Miller from Parks.

Those absent: Linda Beck, John Chaney, Jesse Laing, Laura Lee, John Ringer and Ruth Smith.

Meeting started with an item not on the agenda that just came up from Fish and Wildlife. A complaint was sent to Kevin Hensley and Bruce Ennis in regards to the picnic tables and grass overgrowth. Fish and Wildlife seem to think the picnic tables belong to the PPAHS but the PPAHS has no record of donating the tables or having an agreement to maintain them. The question arose regarding whether they want them removed or do we want to donate tables as a new project.

Introductions: Mike Drake was introduced as our new Park Superintendent. Mika comes from Lums Pond where she was the Assistant Superintendent.

Minutes from June 4, 2020 Meeting: Jennifer emailed Minutes 07/06/20. Motion to approve Minutes by Wes Jones and seconded by Carleen Czajowski.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer's Report presented by Wes Jones as of July 31, 2020, Delaware Community Fund as of June 30, 2020. Wes also presented the 2020 Budget.

Motion to accept Treasurer's Report by Carleen Czajowski and seconded by Guy Harrington.

On-going PROJECTS:

Waterman Statue: John Ringer has continued maintenance on the statue. He had to do some resealing as water was getting in. Should be ok now. More discussion on how to protect/cover. Determined a sail will not work due to wind and weather and that it would need to be a structure of some sort. Will need to have another discussion. Wooden overhang, 2 legs with a cantilever roof was suggested.

Stewart Cemetery: Priority Services is mowing every two-weeks, April through the end of September. Klean Kut is going to treat the stone entrance way to remove weeds and grass. Kristin Cardi from Materials Conservation met with Linda Beck and Julie Harrington to discuss cleaning the headstones. Cost not to exceed \$760.00. As part of the Delaware Humanities CARES Grant we have received \$1,858.00 for cemetery maintenance, broken down as \$1,068.00 for grass cutting, \$385.00 for driveway weed removal and \$405.00 toward approximately \$760.00 for removal of biological growth on the headstones. PPAHS to pay the difference of approximately \$355.00. The work will be done on September 9, 2020. Guy Harrington will get photos. Julie Harrington and Linda Beck noticed misspellings in the Cemetery Interpretive Sign. Julie Harrington will provide all errors and corrections to Jake Miller at Parks to submit. There are errors on the Hubbs House sign also. This was reported a couple years ago. Jake Miller will send pictures with corrections.

Banners: Summer Banners are up.

Flags: It has been determined that the flags can not stay up throughout the Summer due to storms, wind and theft unless they are assessed every week and there are replacements ready. As part of the Delaware Humanities CARES Grant we have ordered 25 flags and 12 poles, the cost was \$992.00. Guy Harrington

suggested wrapping some of the poles to help with the flags getting caught up and torn. He will take care of.

Delaware Humanities CARES Grant: final due by September 30, 2020. Julie Harrington and Linda Beck will work on grant.

Hero Banners: Need to place order for new banners. Two needed.

Historic House Plaques in Port Penn: Parks has put up some of the signs for their properties. They were unsure of location for two of the signs. Jennifer Naylor provided all the signed contracts that she had from her sign deliveries prior to COVID. Need direction on remaining signs for renters.

Storage at Delaware City Library: Linda Beck and Julie Harrington were able to complete an inventory of the closet on 08/27/20. They continue to work on an arrangement with the town of Delaware City and David Baylor, town manager, about the storage closet. There will be an unknown charge in the future that the PPAHS would like to split with the friends of the African Union Church Cemetery.

2021 PROJECTS:

- **Picnic Tables at Augustine Beach:** To be discussed further.
- **Augustine Beach Trees:** Approximately 18 trees have died. Linda Beck and Julie Harrington met with an arborist to further assess the trees and determine which species survives best in that location. Oaks will grow there. Red Buds do ok. No Magnolia or River Birch. The Delaware Humanities CARES Grant did not cover the trees. Julie Harrington and Carleen Czajowski have several small suggested species of trees that can be planted free of charge. Will need to reassess what is available and when to plant. Clean up will need to be done for Historic Marker Sign presentation.
- **Augustine Beach Historic Marker:** Text has been approved. Delaware Archives will let us know when the marker is completed. Decision needs to be made as to exact placement location. Trees will need to be weeded and mulched before the dedication.
- **Port Penn Presbyterian Church:** Jennifer Naylor stated the church would be having a closing ceremony once allowed due to COVID but found out after the meeting that the Port Penn Presbyterian Church will be turned over on 09/20/20 to the Delaware Presbytery.
- **Port Penn Interpretive Center:** Bulbs to be planted in the fall. Daffodils suggested as best fit.
- **Member's Event/Anniversary Event:** It was determined 2021 would really be the PPAHS 45th Anniversary and not the 35th. Move to next fall. Volunteers needed for event. Interviews should be taken of the senior members as an oral history. David Orr suggested that Linda Beck be interviewed in detail for history and emotional observations.
- **New Board Members:** Suggestion to do a mailing to all residents of Port Penn letting them know who and what the PPAHS is and asking if anyone would like to join the Board. A postcard was suggested with original artwork from the Interpretive Center. Would also be posted to Social Media.
- **2021 Newsletter:** Wes Jones suggested a story on all the stores/businesses that have been in Port Penn from then until now. Also suggested an article on Bayview Beach.

2020 Meeting Dates: December 3, 2020

Parks Report: Mika Drake and Jake Miller

- Spoke with the Insurance Inspector in regards to the Muskrat Shack. They need to see the cost comparisons between a rebuild and an acquisition. Jim Hall was the point person on this and has all the information so it will need to be gathered and submitted for review. No details on prosecution for arsonist.
- Wetland Walks – will need to have new interpretive information due to change in marsh.
- Christmas Open House cancelled due to COVID.
- Tours and Walks will continue through the end of the year. Jake Miller will forward dates so Tracy Beck can post on Social Media.
- Cannery Lot – Parks is not cutting and is creating a natural meadow. The lot can be cut if needed. Will be evaluating what is growing and invasive species. Volunteers will come in to clean up.

Motion to adjourn by Tracy Beck and seconded by Wes Jones.