

Port Penn Historical Society Quarterly Meeting

Minutes

Meeting on March 3, 2022 at the Port Penn Interpretive Center – 6:30pm to 7:30pm

Those present: Linda Beck, John Chaney, Nancy Cornish, Julie Harrington, Guy Harrington, Bob Meadows, Jennifer Naylor, Jeff Reed, Ken Spicer and Jake Miller and Mark Wise from Parks.

Those absent: Tracy Beck, Carleen Czajowski, Wes Jones, Jesse Laing, Laura Lee, David Orr and John Ringer.

Minutes from December 2, 2021 Meeting: Jennifer emailed Minutes December 15th. Motion to approve Minutes by Linda Beck and seconded by Nancy Cornish.

Budget: 2021 Budget approved by Linda Beck and seconded by Guy Harrington. 2022 Budget will be gone over by the Board once it has been completed.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer's Report emailed to Board by Wes Jones as of December 31, 2021. Read to Board by Linda Beck.

Money added to Artisan's account for once-a-year activity to avoid fees. Will see on next Treasurer's Report.

Motion to accept Treasurer's Report by Nancy Cornish and seconded by Guy Harrington.

On-going PROJECTS:

2022 Flag Flying Days: John Chaney and Guy Harrington volunteered to handle all the flag days. John and Guy will do an inventory of hardware before first hanging. New poles have been installed so hardware will need to be switched from old poles or replaced. Will also need to replace some broken and missing brackets. May also want to move flags to better locations.

Flags are flown 3 days before and after the holiday:

Memorial Day, Monday, May 30

Flag Day, Tuesday, June 14

Independence Day, Monday, July 4

Labor Day, Monday, September 5 (flags to stay up through 09/11)

Patriot's Day, Sunday, September 11

Veteran's Day, Friday, November 11

Banners: Guy Harrington will hang up Summer Banners in May. There is now room for an additional Banner at 3 E. Market St. Will need to purchase bands, supports and three Banners, Summer, Winter and Hero (to be sold). Past discussion about the Hero Banner being David Stewart. Need to research if there is a portrait available. Motion to approve the Port Penn Area Historical Society funding a Stewart Banner approved by Guy Harrington and seconded by Linda Beck.

Storage at Delaware City Library: All items are still being stored at Linda Beck's house.

A decision on a new storage area needs to be made. Jeff Randol is no longer ED of Fort DuPont Redevelopment & Preservation Corporation. Linda, Wes, Tracy and Julie met with Senator Poore on Saturday, December 11, 2021. Due to redistricting she will be the new Senator for this area in November. Discussed our storage needs and PPAHS applying for Grant & Aid from the state. Different storage ideas

were discussed; even having PPAHS pay for the rent at a store front in DC and have the other non-profits share the space and pay us a portion of the rent. The possible use of a historic building at Fort Dupont was discussed-this building is NOT ready for occupants and is down on the list to be fixed. Nicole is in discussions with David Baylor, DC town manager. Nothing has been resolved. There is a room available at the Delaware City Community Center, the 1812 Room, but until there is a new Librarian there can't even be a discussion. PPAHS needs a 10x10 space and there are four non=profits who all need space. Parks has some ideas but will need to be addressed at a later date.

Traffic Circle – Delaware City: The traffic circle between the two bridges has been scrapped or just possible postponed. No new houses can be built until some sort of traffic control is incorporated at that intersection. Parks heard it was just a delay, not a cancellation.

Scanning and Archiving of PPAHS Materials: Thank you to Linda Beck and Nancy Cornish for scanning. There are more items to be gathered and scanned. This is a work in progress. Due to the storage of items this is on hold.

Augustine Beach Trees: Will assess the trees and mulch in the Spring.

Recycled Plastic Picnic Tables for Augustine Beach: The new tables have been delivered to Fish and Wildlife. Eric Ludwig says they will be installed in the spring with a concrete pad.

PPAHS T-Shirts: Are available for sale. The t-shirts are mentioned in our current newsletter. A form needs to be put up on portpenn.org so people can order. Wes Jones will look into using "SQUARE" as a way to accept electronic payments. Thank you Carleen Czajowski for volunteering to mail out the orders.

2022 PROJECTS:

- **2022 PPAHS Newsletter:** Was completed and mailed out. Thank you Linda Beck and Carleen Czajowski.
- **Audit of PPAHS Books:** Tracy Beck, Wes Jones, Nancy Cornish and Linda Beck will get together to audit the books. Linda Beck will also reach out to Sam Eaton to assist as she can host but not be part of the audit.
- **Waterman Statue:** The statue is in bad shape. Need to consider other options: Metal Silhouette, Fiberglass, Bronze. Linda Beck and Julie Harrington continue to meet with Kerry from Forged Creations for an iron silhouette idea. Wes Jones has a contact for a reasonably priced (\$25,000.00) bronze statue. We will miss the March 1st deadline to apply for a grant from Delaware Division of Arts. However, this does give us time to get our thoughts together and make the right decision. May have to do a fundraiser with Members for donations. Could do voting if there are multiple choices through the community, Members and Museum attendees. Possibility of auctioning off current Waterman Statue. Will need to discuss further.
- **Oral History Project:** Still needs to be pursued. Still need a list of questions. Julie Harrington will reach out to David Orr. Will start interviews with Linda Beck, David Orr, Dave Armstrong and Bob Willoughby. This project needs to get moving.
- **Stewart House:** Current homeowner has listed the house for sale. Julie Harrington proposed this should be purchased by the State of Delaware and the PPAHS raise money to restore and use as our headquarters. Linda Beck reached out to a prospective buyer who also does restoration. They toured the home and found 80% of the architecture is intact. The floors, trim, window casings etc. This will need to be a restoration, not a renovation or historic architecture will be lost. The home is also structurally sound. PPAHS needs to determine what sort of involvement we would want in

this. It was presented by Guy Harrington that this is what we should be doing. Helping preserve history. Jennifer Naylor agreed and added that it should at least be our responsibility to help find a buyer who will restore and preserve the home. Jake Miller said it would be a better benefit for a private buyer and not the State. Discussion will be tabled for now. Julie Harrington will organize a separate meeting for just this topic as it is important and time consuming.

- **Website:** Wes Jones will be looking into hiring someone to maintain and run our website. Will provide cost once it is determined.
- **Port Penn Interpretive Center Plantings:** Suggestion for some additional plantings at the museum. John Chaney recommended native Viburnum, Black Eyed Susan and Cone Flower.

2022 Meeting Dates: June 2nd, September 1st and December 1st. 2022 Fall Fling Member's Event to be held in the Fall, this will take the place of our September meeting. Date and location TBD.

Parks Report: Mark Wise and Jake Miller

- **Bike Station:** The Bike Station spot has been approved. Parks will install concrete pad for the station.
- **Cannery Lot:** Received grant for new trees to replace the invasive species that were cut down in December. Late March or early April Parks will be planting an assortment of 65 new trees in the Cannery Lot including White Oak, American Beech, Pignut Hickory, Black Oak, Northern Red Oak, White Dogwood, American Hornbeam, Beach Plum, Strawberry Bush, Cranberry Bush Viburnum and Arrowood. Want this planting done before the Summer busy months and to be able to take advantage of the possibility of a wet Spring. Parks will need volunteers to help maintain trees and bushes after planting. Mainly watering if it is a dry Spring. Discussed Boy/Girl Scouts, Firehouse and Fish and Wildlife as ideas for help. Delaware State Parks has a mission of planting 75,000 new trees. The stumps from the cut down have been treated and Parks will be removing the stumps in a year or so. Parks will let the PPAHS know of the planting day so we can help if needed.
- **Muskrat Shack:** No new update on this currently. It is a priority within Parks and is brought up first on their planning meetings. A claim was filed when the incident occurred and was approved but no money has been disbursed. Insurance company needed estimates.
- **Port Penn Season:** Discussed creating a "season" for Port Penn to promote to visitors. Suggested starting in September and going through Spring. Can purchase A-Frame signs to promote Port Penn and place them at the Fort Delaware ticket office so people will know and see they can make a short trip to Port Penn. Also suggested placing Roadside signs for the trails and the Muskrat Shack that are visible from the road.

Motion to adjourn by Guy Harrington at 7:30pm.