

Port Penn Historical Society Quarterly Meeting

Minutes

Meeting on June 2, 2022 at the Port Penn Interpretive Center – 6:30pm to 7:30pm

Those present: Linda Beck, Tracy Beck, Nancy Cornish, Carleen Czajowski, Guy Harrington, Julie Harrington, Wes Jones, Jennifer Naylor, Ken Spicer and Jake Miller from Parks.

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

Minutes from March 3, 2022 Meeting: Jennifer emailed Minutes March 14th. Motion to approve Minutes by Tracy Beck and seconded by Wes Jones.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer's Report emailed to Board by Wes Jones as of March 31, 2022.

T-shirt sales, dues and donations added. Spent some funds on t-shirts to have in inventory. Money added to Artisan's account for once-a-year activity to avoid fees. Capital Gains loss on the Delaware Community Foundation account.

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

Budget: Wes Jones went over the 2022 Budget. Dues lower than expected. Money spent on new Bike Station being installed at the Port Penn Interpretive Center. Bill hasn't been received yet.

On-going PROJECTS:

2022 Flag Flying Days: Need new brackets installed on poles. Last flag at Augustine Beach needs to be lowered or moved.

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

New Members: Discussed ways to increase PPAHS Membership. Notice of upcoming meetings posted prior to the meeting in the Port Penn Post Office, posting on our Facebook page as well as the Port Penn Residents Facebook page were suggested. Also discussed coming up with some sort of Welcome Wagon for new residents.

Adopt-a-Highway: Resident complained about trash outside their home to the PPAHS. Quick discussion on whether this is something we would like to get involved in. Decided it should be directed to Kevin Hensley and DelDOT.

Banners: The Port Penn Area Historical Society is funding a Stewart Family Banner. The banner will be located at Pat Schaffer's house (3 E. Market). Wes Jones acquired a picture of David Stewart IV. Will need to finalize verbiage for the banner. Discussed using "Founding Family" and listing the dates. Will say from PPAHS. Bands, supports and 3 banners will be purchased for this location. Light poles need to be painted.

Storage at Delaware City Library: All items are still being stored at Linda Beck's house. Letters need to be written from the Non-Profits that need storage to the new Librarian (Loree Elton) and the Library Board (President, Steve Michel). This is in process. Storage at the Library, in the 1812 room would not be able to store anything valuable. Only paper products. Ideally the best option would be storage at the new Parks Office at Fort DuPont. There is room in the basement. Jake Miller will discuss with Mark Wise. PPAHS will provide our own shelving and would purchase a door with a lock if there isn't one. No additional help from Senator Poore.

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: Planting and mulching around new Historical Marker suggested for Fall. Wes Jones would grill hot dogs for any volunteers that help with planting. Suggested reaching out to local Boy Scouts or Girl Scouts.

Recycled Plastic Picnic Tables for Augustine Beach: The new tables have been installed and secured by lock and chain on a cement base.

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.

Audit of PPAHS Books: Completed on April 16, 2022. Wes Jones will be updating the filing system for an easier process next year.

2022 PROJECTS:

- **Waterman Statue:** The statue is in bad shape. Need to consider other options: Metal Silhouette, Fiberglass, Bronze. Kerry from Forged Creations unable to assist with this project but Linda Beck and Julie Harrington will see if he can recommend anyone that could. There is a Delaware Company called "All Classics", www.allclassics.com, (302) 738-2190 that Linda Beck and Julie Harrington will reach out to. They do fiberglass, wood and bronze. Jake Miller mentioned a former employee of Parks, Troy Christman, who did some sculpture. Jake Miller will locate his contact information and reach out. Discussed partially saving the statue. Cut the base off. Moving the statue would be a challenge. Don't really want the statue inside but it does need to be protected somehow. Jake Miller will look into moving. Will need the weight and to determine the stability. Discussed placing at the front door under awning. Will reach out to Material Conservation for some opinions on what we can do. Regardless of saving the statue, would still like a replacement.
- **Port Penn Interpretive Center Plantings:** Need volunteers for some additional plantings at the museum. Jennifer Naylor volunteered to purchase and plant new plants.
- **Port Penn Welcome Signs:** Need to be weed whacked or sprayed with round up.
- **Board Members:** Discussed whether everyone would like to continue with their current position. Wes Jones would like to step down as President soon. He's been in the position for about 9 years now and thinks it is time for a new President. Julie Harrington needs assistance with a lot of the Treasurer responsibilities that fall on her due to being local. Jennifer Naylor said she would assist if needed. Some responsibilities need to be redistributed. Hoping for some new Members as well.

- **Oral History Project:** This project needs to start happening now. Julie Harrington will come up with question/discussion points. Interviewees have already been selected.
- **Stewart House:** House is pending sale.
- **Augustine Inn:** Is closing/moving to Middletown.
- **Website:** Wes Jones is requesting someone to maintain the website. This will need to be addressed in the next few years. Facebook was suggested as an alternative.

2022 Projects: Waterman Statue will be the largest expense this year if a solution is found.

2022 Meeting Dates: 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. Discussed having the Event at Parks new office at Fort DuPont. Building has two wide porches. Jake Miller suggested doing a walking tour of the grounds. Date to be determined.

Parks Report: Jake Miller

- **Christmas Open House:** Friday, December 16, 2022
- **Bike Station:** Wes Jones provided design for the Bike Station. Bike Station has been received. Parks will pour concrete pad and install.
- **Cannery Lot:** 65 trees and bushes were planted at the southern end of the Cannery Lot.
- **Muskrat Shack:** No new update on this currently. It is a priority within Parks and is brought up first on their planning meetings. May need to escalate.
- **Port Penn Season:** Museum refresh still in the works. Museum will open for the Summer June 18, 2022. Hiring is difficult all through Parks. The Fort DuPont Parks Office Manager will open the Interpretive Center.
 - Open Houses – 11am – 4pm
June 19, 2022
July 17, 2022
August 21, 2022

Jake Miller will provide electronic flyer for Social Media. Will also post in Post Office.

- New Port Penn Kids Craft Club – 3pm
June 23, 2022 – Net-making
July 14, 2022 – Flower Pot Crabs
August 11, 2022 – Thaumatrope

All programs take place at the Port Penn Interpretive Center at 3pm. Jake Miller provided a flyer for the Post Office and will email to the Board so it can be added to Social Media.

Jake Miller looking for suggestions of performers for the Port Penn Interpretive Center. Would like to schedule some inside evening programs with folk singers or storytellers.

Motion to adjourn by Guy Harrington.