

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

### **Minutes**

**Meeting on December 1, 2022 at the Port Penn Interpretive Center – 6:30pm to 7:30pm**

Those present: Linda Beck, Tracy Beck, John Chaney, Nancy Cornish, Carleen Czajowski, Guy Harrington, Julie Harrington, Wes Jones, Jennifer Naylor, Jeff Reed, and Mark Wise from Parks.

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

**Minutes from June 2, 2022 Meeting:** Jennifer emailed Minutes June 9<sup>th</sup>. Motion to approve Minutes by Wes Jones and seconded by Tracy Beck.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer's Report and 2022 Budget emailed to Board by Wes Jones as of September 30, 2022. Treasurer's Report updated to Quarterly format.

\$2,000 moved from Delaware Community Foundation to our Checking Account for T-Shirts, Bike Station, Cemetery Maintenance and the Members Event.

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

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

**2022 Flag Flying Days:** Thank you John for hanging the flags for 2022. There is a flag stuck/tangled in the power lines at Augustine Inn, Guy Harrington will remove. Need about 7 new brackets and hardware installed on poles. Last flag at Augustine Beach needs to be lowered or moved. Will revisit bracket/hardware replacement in the Spring.

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

Flags are flown 3 days before and after the holiday:

*Memorial Day, Monday, May 29*

*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:** Hero Banners are up and Winter Banners will be hung by Guy Harrington. Need to finalize verbiage for the David Stewart IV Hero Banner. Banner will state "Descendent of Founder of Port Penn" or something similar. David Stewart IV lived in Port Penn and is buried in the Stewart Cemetery. John Chaney will do some extra ancestry research.

**Storage at Delaware City Library:** All items are still being stored at Linda Beck's house. Craig O'Donnell of Friends of the African Union Church Cemetery confirmed that the Delaware City Episcopal Church has room as well as the new church utilizing the old Delaware City Fire House. At this time Parks does not have room but this could change as buildings are updated.

**Presbyterian Church:** A lease agreement is being signed today with the Prebytery and the Iglesia de Pentecostal M.I. El Shaddai Church. The lease to buy agreement is from December 1, 2022 through November 30, 2023. The Minister is Juan Lozada. The church plans to hold its first service this Sunday,

December 4, 2022. Linda Beck, Julie Harrington and Jennifer Naylor will welcome them to the community and deliver Christmas wreaths for the front church doors on Tuesday, December 6, 2022. There will also be an article about the new church in the 2023 Port Pennings.

**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. Wes Jones introduced utilizing a new application for sharing communications, a calendar as well as storing the scanned documents. The application is called *groups.io* and is similar to Microsoft Teams but geared toward small groups. Wes Jones will set this up utilizing the free version and invite everyone as a test. If this is a solution, we can acquire the full version with extras for \$20 a month. *groups.io* has 20gb of storage which is plenty.

**Augustine Beach Trees:** Need weeding and mulching in the Spring. Need to purchase a Winter Berry to be planted around the Historic Marker. This will also to be done in the Spring. Carleen Czajowski suggested having historic images of Augustine Beach somehow displayed. Solar lighted poles with banners was a suggestion. After a bit if discussion, having a Wayside Exhibit Sign would be the better solution. Delaware Humanities provided a Grant for a similar project at the African Union Cemetery in Delaware City. She will see if she can get a Grant for a similar interpretive sign for Augustine Beach.

**PPAHS T-Shirts:** Are available for sale, promote these as you can. Our Square can accept electronic payments, Tracy Beck, Julie Harrington and Wes Jones are working on figuring out how to have a link placed on the website for online orders. Jeff Reed suggested a flyer be placed in the Port Penn Post Office advertising the t-shirts as a Christmas gift idea. The price of the t-shirts has gone up so we will also need to raise our price. Since this should be looked at as a fund raiser for the Historical Society it should be an ok increase. T-shirt price will increase to \$25 with shipping if applicable.

**Waterman Statue:** The statue cannot be repaired. Kerry from Forged Creations in Delaware City is willing to help, it is just a slow process. He is working on a design that will be shared with the Board once received. The PPAHS reached out to All Classics in Delaware and Creative Metal Designs in Frederick, MD and neither had anything that would fit our needs or within our budget. We have been unable to locate any other metal sculptors. As for a local resting spot for the Waterman Statue, Upper Bay Museum in North East, MD is willing to display the statue in their museum and are very excited for this acquisition. We will provide the statue and the plaque. More arrangements will need to be discussed with them. They will need to acknowledge PPAHS as the donor and release us from liability etc. Sean from the Cutting Edge states that he can remove the bottom for us and maybe transport it as well. Linda Beck and Julie Harrington will continue to follow up on this with the Upper Bay Museum as well as Cutting Edge.

**Port Penn Interpretive Center Plantings:** Thank you to Jennifer Naylor and John Chaney for the plantings over the Summer. Everything looked great and seemed to survive. Will take a look at the Museum in the Spring/Summer to see if anything is needed.

### **2023 PROJECTS:**

- **Waterman Statue:** This will be our largest expense and will probably carry over into 2024 if a solution is found.
- **Entrance Signs:** Need some perennial plants as well as mulch. This will be a Spring project.
- **Oral History Project:** This project needs to start happening now. Julie Harrington has the question/discussion points. Interviewees have already been selected. Interviews need to be guided. Linda Beck will be the first interviewee. Date will be set for 2023.

- **2023 Newsletter:** Suggested articles about the new tenants of the Presbyterian Church (as mentioned above) as well as the new tenants of the old Port Penn Bait and Tackle shop. Linda Beck also suggested incorporating nature photographs. Material should be submitted by the end of January, beginning of February.

**2023 Meeting Dates:** March 1<sup>st</sup>, June 1<sup>st</sup>, September 7<sup>th</sup> and December 7<sup>th</sup>. Special projects, budget etc. may need additional meetings.

**Member's Event:** Thanks so everyone who attended this year's 'Hurricane Party' event! Our September 7<sup>th</sup> meeting can be replaced with our 2023 Member's event or it could be held in October. Augustine Inn was suggested as a location as they are open again. More information to come in 2023.

**Port Penn Interpretive Center Christmas Open House:** Friday, December 16<sup>th</sup>. PPAHS will provide some refreshments.

**New Members:** Jennifer Naylor presented a picture of a banner that the St. George's Historical Society has staked in the ground visible to street traffic in St. George's inviting new Members. Suggested we do something similar in Port Penn for the Historic Society. Banner could be placed on the corner of the Cleaver House so both directions of traffic would see it. Mark Wise from Parks will verify this is ok and let us know. Julie Harrington will look into the banner.

**Friends of the African Union Cemetery:** On October 14, 2022 the film debut of "*Voices Long Forgotten*" was shown at the Delaware City Fire Hall. This was a huge success. 40 to 50 people were expected and over 150 people attended. Jeff Reed suggested this film be shown at the Port Penn Interpretive Center or the Port Penn Fire Hall as an event for Port Penn. Will discuss this with Jake Miller from Parks to get his thoughts.

**Parks Report:** Mark Wise

- **Bike Station:** The Bike Station will be installed prior to the Fort opening, late Winter. Temperature for the concrete needs to be above 50 degrees.
- **Port Penn Museum:** Jake Miller has a layout for the Museum refresh. Will provide at our next meeting as he was unable to attend this meeting.
- **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.
- **Museum Repairs:** The back wall has been repaired. The louvered shutters above, at the small window can not be repaired. Disintegrated on touch. The Historically correct shutters on all the windows need to be painted. Parks Maintenance will look at them and determine when and how this will be done. Light poles also need to be painted.

**Motion to adjourn by Wes Jones.**