

Port Penn Historical Society Quarterly Meeting

Minutes

Meeting on March 2, 2023 at the Port Penn Interpretive Center – 6:30pm to 7:30pm

Those present: Linda Beck, Nancy Cornish, Guy Harrington, Julie Harrington, Wes Jones, Jennifer Naylor, Jeff Reed, and Jake Miller from Parks.

Those absent: Tracy Beck, John Chaney, Carleen Czajowski, Jesse Laing, Laura Lee, David Orr, John Ringer and Ken Spicer.

Minutes from December 1, 2022 Meeting: Jennifer emailed Minutes December 9th. Motion to approve Minutes by Wes Jones and seconded by Guy Harrington.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer's Report and 2023 Budget emailed to Board by Wes Jones as of December 31, 2022. Treasurer's Report updated to Quarterly format.

\$2,000 needed from 2023 Budget for Museum refresh voted via email.

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

On-going PROJECTS:

2022 Flag Flying Days: Need to purchase about 7 new brackets/holders and move at least one bracket down. John Chaney said he'd install new hardware. John will hang flags but wouldn't turn down help so he isn't doing all days.

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: Winter banners are up. Guy Harrington will hang Summer banners at the beginning of May. Three new banners and brackets are on order, one for light post in front of Pat Schaffer's home and a couple replacements.

Storage at Delaware City Library: All items are still being stored at Linda Beck's house. Fort DuPont Society help not any time soon. Jennifer Naylor suggested asking the new tenants of the Port Penn Presbyterian Church to see if they have any extra room since it is now open and local as a short-term solution to get everything out of Linda Beck's garage. Linda Beck will reach out to her contact at the Presbytery. Port Penn Firehouse and the Museum were suggested as well and were an immediate no.

Scanning and Archiving of PPAHS Materials: This project is still on hold due to our storage issue. PPAHS is utilizing groups.io for archiving, communicating and sharing a calendar. This is still a work in progress as we learn the program.

Augustine Beach Trees: Trees look good, will double check once they have all bloomed. Will weed, mulch and plant Winter Berry on May 6, 2023, rain date May 7, 2023. Julie Harrington will purchase the Winter Berry. Linda Beck will provide variety that is planted at the Museum. The Cutting Edge will deliver mulch. Jake Miller will reach out to Parks Volunteer Manager to see if they have a contact with a Scout group that would be interested in helping.

PPAHS T-Shirts: Are available for sale, promote these as you can. Our Square can accept electronic payments. Customer can request an order/invoice be sent to their email. An invoice is created in Square and sent to the customer. The customer then can make a credit card payment by following the link provided in the invoice and pay through Square. PPAHS does not see any of the customers credit card information. Once payment is received the t-shirt will be mailed. An order form for t-shirts was provided in our current newsletter mailing.

*Going forward, Square may be set up to accept donations and membership dues.

Waterman Statue: The statue cannot be repaired. Kerry from Forged Creations in Delaware City cannot help with this project going forward due to health issues. This puts us back to square one with this project. We will begin looking for another metal sculptor. Jeff Reed suggested reaching out to a Vo-Tech school to see if they have any contacts. The Cutting Edge is waiting for good weather to remove the base of the statue and deliver to a woodworking shop in Philadelphia. Once removed the statue will belong to The Upper Bay Museum in North East, MD.

2023 PROJECTS:

- **Waterman Statue:** This will be our largest expense and will probably carry over into 2024/2025 if a solution is found.
- **Entrance Signs:** Decided against plantings and instead will focus on just maintenance, weed whacking and sign maintenance.
- **Oral History Project:** Linda Beck will continue working on this project. She will focus on subjects, for example, the stores, post offices, bars/taverns, churches and farms of Port Penn next, in the same fashion as her article in the newsletter on the Port Penn School House. Linda Beck interviewed Billy Marshall and Patricia Schaffer for this story and prefers to recount the history and her remembrances in this story form. Julie Harrington will be reaching out to Bob Willoughby for an interview regarding Port Penn farmers as this also ties into a Parks exhibit in the museum. Other oral histories, aside from the above, will be organized and scheduled going forward.
- **New Members Banner:** Jake Miller will follow up with Mark Wise regarding the banner being placed on the corner of the Cleaver House so both directions of traffic would see it.
- **Museum Refresh:** Once refresh is complete consider promoting the new look and look into scheduling extra events to show off the changes.

2023 Meeting Dates: June 1st, Members Event tentative October 1st and December 7th. Special projects, budget etc. may need additional meetings.

Member's Event: Looking at the Augustine Inn as a potential location for the event. Julie Harrington will reach out to see options. Taylor's Bridge School (District No. 66) is available for events and was suggested by Jennifer Naylor as another option to consider.

Port Penn Interpretive Center Christmas Open House: Friday, December 15th. Linda Beck spoke with the Delaware City Library regarding movie licenses for this year's Open House. It is possible to purchase

a one day license. Jake Miller will look into the cost of this and how to go about it so we can show a Christmas movie for the children during the Open House.

Parks Report: Jake Miller

- **Bike Station:** Concrete pad should be poured by the end of March for installation of the Bike Station.
- **Port Penn Museum:** The Interpretive signage text is being finalized as well as one minute oral histories for the interactive exhibits using iPads. Parks will need farming information and photos. Mentioned above, Julie Harrington will be working on this. While working on the refresh Parks ran into an issue with the flooring of the museum. The joists are rotting in some places and will need to be replaced. Waiting on quote for cost of repairs. Museum will need to be emptied during the repairs. Still shooting for a May finish on the refresh in time for the opening season.
- **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.
- **Market Square Parking Lot:** Parks has received many complaints regarding the condition of the lot. Cars that are using the lot for parking are getting stuck. At this time Parks has decided to close the lot. Julie Harrington, Linda Beck and Wes Jones will reach out to Parks to discuss this as the parking lot is part of the original agreement with Parks and needs to be accessible to the town and visitors. Will need to be fixed and not closed.
- **Museum Repairs:** Jake Miller will check to see when the shutters can be painted. Outside painting is on the list just not sure when it will be completed.
- **Cleaver House Resident Curatorship:** Parks has someone who is very seriously interested in the Cleaver House. Information regarding the Curatorship can be found here:
<https://destateparks.com/Curator/CleaverHouse>

Motion to adjourn by Wes Jones.