

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

### **Minutes**

**Meeting on September 2, 2021 at the Port Penn Interpretive Center – 6:30pm to 7:30pm**

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

Those absent: Becky Herman, Jesse Laing, Laura Lee, John Ringer and Ruth Smith.

**Birthday:** Birthday cake presented to David Orr.

**Introduction:** Introduced ourselves to new Parks Superintendent Mark Wise. He gave a quick introduction to us on his background.

**Minutes from June 3, 2021 Meeting:** Jennifer emailed Minutes 06/04/21. Motion to approve Minutes by Wes Jones and seconded by David Orr.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer's Report emailed to Board by Wes Jones as of July 31, 2021, Delaware Community Fund as of March 31, 2021.

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

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

**Flags:** John Chaney emailed an update on broken brackets, missing brackets and brackets that were too high for his ladder after June meeting. Mentioned some issues on Liberty and Congress. John Chaney also provided an account of overgrowth which needs to be addressed due to the possibility of poison ivy and bees. All flags are in good shape at this point and Julie Harrington will provide replacements as they need it. Julie Harrington will reach out to Kevin Hensley in regard to DELDOT sign placement by Kelly's as well as weed maintenance around poles where flags are hung.

**2021 Flag Flying Days:** John Chaney volunteered to handle all the flag day but will reach out for assistance if needed or he is unable to hang flags.

Flags are flown 3 days before and after the holiday:

*Memorial Day, Monday, May 31*

*Flag Day, Monday, June 14*

*Independence Day, Sunday, July 4*

*Labor Day, Monday, September 6 (flags to stay up through 09/11)*

*Patriot Day, Saturday, September 11*

*Veteran's Day, Thursday, November 11*

**Banners:** Summer Banners have been ordered. New Salesperson at the company is difficult to work with. New Banners will be hung Summer of 2022. Guy Harrington will hang Veteran's Banners for the month of November and Winter Banners in December.

**Historic House Plaques in Port Penn:** Carleen Czajowski distributed the remaining Plaques, but they all haven't been installed by the homeowners. Still waiting to provide the two Blansfield Plaques until construction on homes is completed and new owners moved in. Stewart House Plaque will be provided to

new Owner.

**Stewart House:** Wayside Sign needs to be replaced. Stewart House was purchased by Al Rossi. Linda Beck will reach out to him regarding the Historic House Plaque.

**Storage at Delaware City Library:** Informed by David Baylor on August 31, that we need to remove our stuff from the storage closet by October 15, 2021. The library board has decided that they don't want nonprofits coming & going as they please, interrupting their programming. Will need pick up trucks to move items. Need to figure out a location to store the stuff once removed. Laura Lee has been in contact with Jeff Randol from Fort DuPont Redevelopment & Preservation Corporation, about possible use of a historic building there. There is a meeting room available for non-profits to use in the library free of charge. Wes Jones recommended renting a storage unit until the rehab is done on the building at Fort DuPont. There is one right in Delaware City. Suggestion of sharing space with other nonprofits once there is a possible space to rent. David Orr suggested sharing the storage unit with all three nonprofits and sharing the cost. John Chaney suggested purchasing a permanent shed to be placed on the Interpretive Center property that could be used for storage. Storage would need to be climate controlled. Nancy Cornish suggested scanning anything that can be scanned and then donating the original to free up space. Will need to look into this further as we get closer.

**Scanning and Archiving of PPAHS Materials:** Linda Beck and Nancy Cornish have started scanning available materials and will scan anything found in storage once it is moved out. Wes Jones determined we would use Google Docs for electronic storage of all scanned information. Login information will be provided to Board Members.

**Augustine Beach Historic Marker:** The marker is in place. Dedication is Wednesday September 8, 2021 at 9:00am. Senator Ennis & Representative Hensley will there. David Orr will say a few words. Linda Beck and Guadalupe will clean up all weeds at Augustine Beach Monday, 09/06/21 at 9am.

**Augustine Beach Trees:** There are 5-6 trees that need to be replaced. Decided not to pursue a Grant for this and just purchase the Native trees ourselves.

## 2021 PROJECTS:

- **Recycled Plastic Picnic Tables for Augustine Beach:** Picnic tables have been ordered and will take about 6 weeks to be made. Once finished will be delivered to Eric Ludwig at Fish and Wildlife to be installed. ECO Plastic Products will accept donations of plastic and we can get credit to bring the cost of the tables down. They are located on Germay Drive.
- **Bike Repair Station:** Cost to purchase station will be \$1300. Repair station will be 3 ft. x 3 ft. Suggested Parks install once received. Bid to install was \$1600 if not done by Parks. Jake Miller from Parks passed out a map showing where the station could be placed. Jake Miller suggested by the handicap parking at end of parking lot. Wes Jones suggested behind the already placed Historic Marker sign. Needs to be visible from the street. Jake Miller will find out if there is any

liability. Using the station is free. Tools are all cabled to the hand pump. Mark Wise from Parks will check with Alapocas to see how they handled installation and any other details when they installed their station. PPAHS will share the cost of installation with Parks if that is the route taken. Jake Miller from Parks will contact Tom Summers from Historic Preservation about whether this install will affect the Historic Registry. Jake Miller does not think this will be an issue.

- **Member's Event/Anniversary Event:** Date has been changed to Sunday, October 17, 2021. The event will be from 1pm – 3pm at the Cleaver House. Linda Beck will call the Liquor Board to determine if we need a one day liquor license or just if we need a permit from Parks. We are not selling alcohol so it may not be needed. Jake Miller will double check the rules with consumption and not sales on Park land. Julie Harrington will also check to see what we did at Ashton Tract for our last event.
- **Port Penn Entrance Signs:** Jeff Reed will replace the roping at the three entrance signs to Port Penn.
- **Oral History Project:** David Orr presented three points on how to conduct an interview.
  1. Know your subject – read about/research subject prior to interview
  2. Choose a location for the interview and describe the setting
  3. Use general questions (born, live) and specific (to the topic) questions during the interview
 Will need to determine where to store the recordings and any pictures taken during the interview for conservation and so they are accessible. These are the things that need to be done first before we begin interviewing.
- **Port Penn T-Shirts:** Turtle T-Shirts are in. Any reprints will include the PPAHS logo on the sleeve. Wes will put an order form on the website. Pictures of shirts need to be taken to put on the website.

**2021 Meeting Dates:** September 8, 2021 Augustine Beach Marker Dedication, October 17, 2021 Fall Member's Event and December 2, 2021 Quarterly Meeting.

#### **Parks Report:** Mark Wise and Jake Miller

- **Park Superintendent:** New Parks Superintendent Mark Wise has now been here for a month.
- **Interpretive Center:** Open House September 11, 2021 from 12pm – 4pm. There will be feedback forms, refreshments and goodie bags. Would like PPAHS Members to attend to talk and answer questions. Parks will be doing tours during the event. The feedback form/survey will also be sent to Members and posted on Social Media/Website by Tract Beck. Jake Miller provided a flyer for the event that Julie Harrington will place in the Post Office. There is also a video on Facebook about the event with a walkthrough.
- **Muskrat Shack:** No new update on Muskrat Shack. Mark Wise will start from scratch with this and provide any information he receives in the future.
- **Cannery Lot:** John Chaney contact Mark Wise in regard to all the invasive trees growing in the Cannery Lot. The “Invasive Assassins” determined there is a 20 feet deep, 100 feet long stretch of the invasive paper mulberries that need to be removed. Suggested that Jim Charney the Parks Arborist conduct a chainsaw training class and use the invasive trees as the victims. Different Parks employees will come to learn, mow sapplings and treat stumps. Will schedule this once the weather cools.
- **Museum Upkeep:** A safety inspection was done and there was some structural damage found. Building and shutters also need to be painted. All on the list of things to get done. Mark Wise is on everything and playing catch up to get it all taken care of. PPAHS funded last painting and has the shutters hand crafted.
- **Boardwalk:** Safety inspection done at the end of the boardwalk. Fish and Wildlife and Parks still debating on where the property line is and who is responsible. Path has not been mowed and Parks is aware it needs to be worked on. Fish and Wildlife thinks it is Parks and the PPAHS thinks it is Fish and Wildlife. Jake Miller noticed the marsh is improving and looks healthy.

**Motion to adjourn by Wes Jones 7:30pm.**