

## Port Penn Historical Society Quarterly Meeting Minutes

December 5, 2024 Meeting 6:00 p.m. - 6:45 p.m. Parks Headquarters-Fort duPont Complex

**Present:** Linda Beck, Jeff Reed, Guy Harrington, Julie Harrington and Bob Meadows.  
Parks: Mark Wise and Jake Miller

**Absent:** Wes Jones, Tracy Beck, Jennifer Naylor, John Chaney, Carleen Czajowski, Dave Orr, Laura Lee, Nancy Cornish and John Ringer

**Minutes from June 6, 2024 meeting:** submitted by Jennifer on 6/07/2024. Motion to approve minutes by Linda Beck, seconded by Guy Harrington.

**Treasurer's Report/2025 Budget:** Emailed to board by Wes Jones. Reports read by Linda Beck.

### Report as of: September 30, 2024

Capital Checking Account Balance: \$10,185.87  
Operational Checking Account (GIA) Balance: \$4,426.68  
Delaware Community Foundation: \$95,885.14  
Money available for distribution: \$16,765.99

**Note:** Grant-In-Aid FY2025 approved (\$5,000.00) and account opened with M&T on August 16, 2024, this account is for operating expenses.

Motion to accept treasurer's report by Julie Harrington, seconded by Guy Harrington.

### On-going PROJECTS:

**2024 Flag Flying Days:** Thank you to John Chaney and Guy Harrington for hanging and removal of flags.

### 2025 FLAG FLYING DAYS:

Flags are flown 3 days before and after the holiday:

*Memorial Day, Monday, May 26th (flags stay up through 07/04-do they hold up for this long?)*

*Flag Day, Saturday, June 14th*

*Independence Day, Friday, July 4th*

*Labor Day, Monday, September 1st (flags stay up through 09/11)*

*Patriot's Day, Thursday, September 11th*

*Veteran's Day, Tuesday November 11th*

Looking for help with hanging the flags in 2025. John Stachowski is a local resident & willing to help. Jeff Reed volunteers to help, but says he isn't good with ladders. Linda volunteered Wes Jones to help. Need to purchase approximately 4 new holders & brackets. PPAHS will reimburse.

**Banners:** Winter banners to be hung up & heroes banners taken down once winds die down. Thank you Guy Harrington for hanging the banners.

**Storage Area:** Great news. PSC Properties in Delaware City has graciously donated storage space for both PPAHS and FAUCC non-profit organizations to share. This is a one year contract, beginning November 1, 2024, hopefully no issues in renewing. Both PPAHS & FAUCC supplied personal information and added PSC Properties to their respective liability insurance policies. Senator Nicole Poore was instrumental in helping us secure this space. Key code and key are needed to access the property, Linda & Julie have a key. On November 16th, Wes, Tracy, Linda, Guy & Julie moved all PPAHS items from Linda's garage to the new storage space. All items are inventoried.

**T-shirts:** Are available for sale, promote these as you can.

**Delaware City Day:** Both PPAHS & FAUCC shared a tent at the event. Sold 3 t-shirts and 1 DVD. Made a contact with St. George's Cub Scout Pack, discussed possibility of helping out with Spring mulching at Augustine Beach.

**Waterman Statue:** Julie reported: To date we have received \$2,060.00 in donations. Our application for the Crystal Trust Grant has been accepted, waiting until mid-December to see if the dollar amount (three-fourths of the total cost), we requested for the grant will be approved. We've asked the artist not to start any work on the statue until PPAHS can be assured of proper funding. With the grant, donations and money available from the Delaware Community Foundation we can fully fund this project.

**Members' Event:** Held on September 22, 2024 at Fort Dupont in the pavilion. This was a great success and many thanks to Parks and D.R.B.A. staff for their help. Approximately 40 people in attendance. Everyone was very pleased with the venue.

**PPAHS applied for \$5,000 'Grant-in-Aid' with the state of Delaware FY2026:** Application due on December 6, 2024. Thank you to Wes Jones and Linda Beck for working on the application.

**Stewart Cemetery:** Priority Services has finished cutting for the year. Suggestion that more stone be brought in for the drive. *Possibly a grant-in-aid expense:* Linda Beck to ask State of Delaware Finance Dept. if this would be considered a maintenance project. We don't want to misappropriate our GIA funds. Crush-n-run was suggested. Mark Wise to see if there is a Parks contact for stone delivery.

**Other ideas for projects:**

Website design and hosting: Since PPAHS has received grant-in-aid money, this could help fund this project. MOO Productions was working on FAUCC website redesign, PPAHS could work with them as well. Our current website is managed by Wes Jones and hosted by HostDime as a legacy account, approximately \$180 a year. Further discussion is needed.

**Nancy Cornish found this Delaware 250 grant opportunity:** Wes Jones reported that PPAHS does not have any current projects that would fit this grant and no one is currently willing to take on a new project.

**Augustine Beach trees:** Spring 2025, all trees need to be reassessed after the 2024 drought. Possible project to replace any damaged trees.

**2025 QUARTERLY MEETING DATES:** The PPIC structural work should be completed and PPAHS will be able to hold our quarterly meetings there.

**March 6th, June 5th, September 4th, December 4th.**

*The September meeting can be our annual members' event, held either in September or October.*

**2025 Members' Event:** The idea of holding our annual members' event at the PPIC was well received.

**Special projects, budget etc. may need additional meetings.**

**PPIC:**

Daylilies and hydrangeas will need to be replanted once repairs are completed and weather warms up.

**Parks Update:**

PPIC is well on its way to being completed. This was quoted as a 90 day construction project, work started on October 31, 2024. Don't start questioning the timing if it's not completed exactly as quoted. Building could possibly sit 6" higher than before. Landscaping and grading will be brought up to the proper height. All exhibits will need to be set up and refreshed. PPAHS is still committed to help with the museum refresh by funding \$2,000.00 toward this project.

Cleaver House: Parks has someone interested in a curatorship. The window boards were replaced summer of 2024.

PPAHS reported to Parks that there are at least three lights out in town. Mark reported that they have found a source for these lightbulbs.

**OTHER:**

**Audit of PPAHS books February 2025.** Linda Beck to coordinate.

**2025 Newsletter articles needed:**

Bob Meadows mentioned writing a story about the ' Blackbird Creek Supreme Court Case', just send him a reminder.

Mark Wise will write a blurb about the PPIC renovation.

**In 2026:** Jeff Reed mentioned that the Port Penn Schoolhouse will be celebrating its 150th year, *sesquicentennial*. Jake said Parks has been considering a celebration. PPAHS and the village of Port Penn celebrated in 1976, there are pictures and articles about this event that could be used. America's 250th, *semiquincentennial*, celebration is July 4, 2026.

**Meeting adjourned by Linda Beck at 6:45pm**