

Port Penn Historical Society Quarterly Meeting Minutes
Meeting on June 5, 2025 at Parks Headquarters, Fort DuPont Complex – 6:00pm to 7:00pm

Those present: Linda Beck, Tracy Beck, Guy Harrington, Julie Harrington, Wes Jones, Bob Meadows, Jennifer Naylor, Jeff Reed and Jake Miller and Mark Wise from Parks.

Those absent: John Chaney, Nancy Cornish, Carleen Czajowski, Laura Lee, David Orr and John Ringer.

Minutes from March 6, 2025 Meeting: Missing an attendee, will be corrected and sent out with this meeting's Minutes. Motion to approve Minutes by Wes Jones and seconded by Tracy Beck.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer's Reports and Budgets emailed to Board by Wes Jones. Treasurer's Report as of March 31, 2025.

Treasurer's Report is two pages, one page for the Capital Account which will be used for Projects and the second page for our Grant in Aid (GIA) Account which will be used for Operational Expenses. The money for the Waterman Statue project has been moved into the Capital Account in preparation for the start of the project.

Budget is also two pages for the same reason as above. The Capital Account Budget is only for Projects which now included a line item for the Waterman Statue since the money has been moved. The Grant in Aid Budget, so far is below the Projected Budget.

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

On-going PROJECTS:

2025 Flag Flying Days: Guy Harrington will purchase five new flag holders and brackets and install on poles prior to first flag flying day. PPAHS will reimburse the expense. Wes Jones volunteered to hang the flags for Labor Day and take down after Patriot's Day. Guy Harrington will cover the other dates unless someone else volunteers for some of the dates. John Stachowski, a local resident, is willing to help.

2025 Flag Flying Days:

Flags are flown 3 days before and after the holiday:

Memorial Day, Monday, May 26

Flag Day, Saturday, June 14 - Guy Harrington

Independence Day, Friday, July 4 – Guy Harrington

Labor Day, Monday, September 1 (flags to stay up through 09/11) – Wes Jones

Patriot's Day, Thursday, September 11

Veteran's Day, Tuesday, November 11

The flags are taking a beating staying up for long periods so they will be coming down more often. Replacements will be needed to be purchased. Flags were included in last year's Budget but we did not spend the money. Will wait to see if we receive the newest Grant in Aid and will purchase new flags and hardware if needed, for next year. Will include in the Budget yearly going forward as it seems to be a needed expense based on the condition of the flags after being hung. Current flags should be fine for the rest of 2025. Thinking \$500.00 should cover it. Julie Harrington will get a price.

Liston Range Rear Lighthouse: The owner of the Liston Range Rear Lighthouse, Ken Spicer, has invited the PPAHS Directors to visit the lighthouse on Friday, June 13th at 3:30pm. The owner is interested in the PPAHS documenting a story for an upcoming newsletter.

The lighthouse is 120 feet tall and the tallest in Delaware. It was originally built several miles east of its present location in 1876-1877 and was moved to its present location in 1937. It was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1978.

PPAHS T-Shirts: Are available for sale. Please promote these as you can.

Waterman Statue: To date we have received \$4,030.00 in donations. All donors have received a thank you note from the PPAHS.

A question regarding the information plaque that will go on the statue was raised. The question was regarding donations for \$1,000 or more and whether they should be added to the plaque to show their donation. Decided that yes, they should be acknowledged but not individually. Will thank “Donors” on the plaque.

The PPAHS applied for the Longwood Foundation Grant and met with Sierra Harris, Program Officer Grantmaking for the Longwood Foundation, onsite at the PPIC on April 14, 2025. At the meeting it was determined that the PPAHS should withdraw the application for the Longwood Foundation Grant due to the PPAHS *having difficulty in developing measurable outcomes tied directly to the installation of the statue*. In short, the Longwood Foundation wanted to be able to see how the statue would impact visitation to the PPIC and Port Penn.

It was decided that the PPAHS should apply for the Community Reinvestment Fund which was due May 1st, 2025. Thank you to Linda Beck, Tracy Beck and Wes Jones for their assistance in writing and submitting the Grant application. The Community Reinvestment Fund Grant will only cover 50%, \$19,000.00 of the Waterman Statue project. We should know whether we will be awarded the Grant by July 2025. The PPAHS also reached out to Kevin Hensley, our State Representative and Nicole Poore, our State Senator for support on this project. The PPAHS successfully moved the \$37,000.00 from our Delaware Community Foundation account for this project. No payments have been made to the Artist at this time. Linda Beck will read through the Community Reinvestment Grant requirements to see if we can start the project before the decision on whether we will receive the Grant has been made. All in agreement that if the Grant does not state it can't be an already in process project we will get started right away. Will reach out to the Artist to get started and provide a downpayment.

Member's Event: The event will again be held in the Fall in place of our September meeting. The hope is to have an unveiling of the Waterman Statue as well as a Grand Re-Opening of the Port Penn Interpretive Center. Date to be determined.

2025 PROJECTS:

- **PPAHS has applied for \$5000 “Grant-in-Aid’-in-Aid’ with the State of Delaware.** *Grant-In-Aid (GIA) is an appropriation made by the General Assembly to support the activities of non-profit organizations that provide services to the citizens of Delaware. The purpose of this funding is to provide supplemental funding to service agencies and should not be construed as a sole source of funding.* This will be for Fiscal Year 2026. We will know the decision July 2025.
- **Stewart Cemetery:** Priority Services started the grass cutting in April. It is \$110 per cut, every other week. The Cemetery will need some stone on some of the road. Not a lot, just enough for a base. Determined to make this a project for 2026.

- **Audit:** An Audit of the PPAHS books was held on March 29, 2025 and was completed with no issues. Thank you to Linda Beck for hosting and assisting, Nancy Cornish, Wes Jones, Sam Eaton and Loree Elton. Loree Elton is the Librarian at the Delaware City Library and has currently taken over the role of Treasurer for the Friends of the African Union Church Cemetery so this was good learning experience for her new duties.
- **New Board Members:** The PPAHS is still looking for new Board Members. Asked Bob Meadows if he would like to make the decision to join the Board during the meeting and he agreed. Thank you Bob! Previous suggested Members to join the Board have been invited to upcoming meetings and events with no response. Julie Harrington will put up a flyer in the Post Office stating that we are looking for new Board Members.
- **Augustine Beach Trees:** All trees were mulched and weeded on May 3, 2025. Thank you to the Cutting Edge for the donation of the mulch, Cub Scout Pack 123 from St. Georges and their parents, Jeff Reed and his tractor, Linda Butler, John and Sean Ringer, Troy Christman, Tracy Beck, Linda Beck and chef Wes Jones! All of the trees are in good shape and no replacements are needed at this time.

2025 Meeting Dates: The location of the 2025 meetings will be determined based on the status of the structural work at the Port Penn Interpretive Center. Upcoming meeting dates are September 4th and December 4th. The September meeting can be our Annual Members Event, which will be held in either September or October. **Special Projects, Budget etc. may need additional meetings.**

Dilworth House Tour: Members of the PPAHS Board visited the Dilworth House on May 28, 2025 at 3:30pm. Pictures and video were taken that will be posted to the website or used in an upcoming Newsletter. The Dilworth House is one of the oldest homes in Delaware. More information on the home that is currently listed for sale can be found here: https://www.realtor.com/realestateandhomes-detail/875-Port-Penn-Rd_Middletown_DE_19709_M55123-36036

Port Penn Interpretive Center: The daylilies and hydrangeas that were dug up for the Interpretive Center construction will need to be replanted once construction is complete. Will need to replace one hydrangea. Downspouts need to be extended and there are a few other outside tasks. Mark Wise will reach out to the Construction Manager to find out when everything will be completed outside so we can replant. Will pick a day for plantings and send out an email for volunteers.

Other Projects: The following projects are still live but have not had any movement at this time. More information will be provided once there is a change.

- Website Design and Hosting
- Oral Histories

Parks Report: Mark Wise and Jake Miller

- **Port Penn Museum:** The museum has been lowered back on its foundation and still hoping for a Fall reopening. The electricity has been turned back on so the contractor can finish up the inside work. New AC unit has been installed. Need the interior painted before everything gets put back. Parks is looking to get volunteers and donations to get the interior painted. PPAHS asked for an estimate on having the interior done by Brush Strokes who is on contract with the State. Mark Wise will get an estimate. Will determine our next step from there.

Once the interior work has been completed, Parks will have a day to get the museum set back up and will need volunteers to help. Currently Dover is working on new wall signage. Jake Miller

would like to have a Net Making Interactive video made by a local net maker. Considering Rich King and Dave Armstrong. Bob Meadows may also be able to help. Jake Miller will reach out. There is money available to pay for this being done.

If all goes smoothly, should be able to have Christmas at the museum this year.

- **Streetlights:** Bulbs have been replaced except for one light pole. Jennifer Naylor will reach out to Mark Wise with which light is not working.

Jeff Reed mentioned that the Liston Front Range Lighthouse Historic Marker sign is overgrown. Jake Miller will take a ride down and get a picture to send to Archives. Or, once there, he may just clean up the area, depending on condition.

Jeff Reed suggested a planting around the Augustine Beach sign. Something to think about for the next clean up at the Beach.

Meeting adjourned at 6:55pm.