Minutes

Stenton Committee

April 2, 2015

Present: Anne Burnett, Kristin Cahn von Seelen, Dennis Pickeral, Carol Rush, Kaelyn Taylor, Laura Keim, Sally Congdon, Alice Lea Tasman, Nina Schaefer, Gina Whelan, and Dora Rogers.

Minutes: Minutes from March were approved with the following corrections:

* Flag Day commemoration: We are looking into preserving the plaque at Bryn Mawr College.
* Remove line: Carol Rush is made a part of these minutes.
* Add line: *see attachment* under director’s report.

President’s Report:

* Anne attended a meeting of the Historic House Museum Consortium Committee. There is a new directory booklet which lists the museum properties (Great American Treasures). We should have a few to sell in the gift shop.

Museum Properties

* The Neville House: We are having some issues with the Allegheny County Committee agreement. We need a better record of their collections transactions.
* We should look into our rights and reproductions policies for our images, objects and documents on loan at other museums. It is on our strategic plan to create this policy, as well as create web access.

Stenton Chair Report:

* On April 22nd, Laura will be talking at PAFA. At 10:30, there will be a tour offered to NSCDA/PA members before the talk.
* Egg Hunt & Memorial taking place on April 4th. We will be putting the bench, dedicated to Lil Chance, outside of the tour entrance door temporarily, until a more permanent place is determined.
* The Garden Party – the invitations are in the mail. Carol and Anne have been coordinating with retirement communities. We still need to organize a raffle basket. The Dames will be putting together a dessert table, but Roller’s will be catering the rest of the food and bartending. Kristin’s daughter Susannah will be playing the violin.

Director’s Report: Dennis Pickeral is hereby made a part of these minutes. (See Directors Report for additional details):

* The Stenton budget:
  + Friends of Stenton income has increased, Garden Party income has increased, and our distribution has increased. Salaries have increased as well, as we are going to hire a part time Development Assistant, and we will have a Site Administrator and Director of Education position.
    - Sally suggested trying to engage Board members as volunteers for tours and other jobs, and noted that the Board should be educated about Stenton. We should have better volunteer coordination, and better engage new members in the site.
  + The EITC grants have a May 15th deadline – This program would put History Hunters on a list to try and match corporate donors with funding opportunities. We should encourage our membership to educate businesses they may have a relationship with to become corporate sponsors through this program.
  + We should discuss the future of the Log House. Do we want to keep it? Do we want to fix it? DO we stabilize it to be moved elsewhere?
  + Wing repairs will require $50,000 from the restoration fund to match a PHMC grant we applied for.
  + We need to consider long term solutions for the budget deficit. How will we address needing higher income?
  + There was a motion to approve recommending the Stenton Budget to the board, initiated by Anne Burnett, seconded by Gina Whelan, and the motion carried.
* The Stenton Education Center (Jane Foster Willson led the discussion)
  + Jane gave a summary of the committee work to date. We had proposed to move the fence line and met with Mark Foulke to see whether that would be an option. We were informed that this would be taking park land, which falls under the Open Lands Protection Ordinance. This law has very high standards to use park land for other purposes and it is very difficult to get an application approved.
  + Some thoughts discussed included whether we might be able to use the Log Cabin in further talks or negotiations, or whether we might be able to move our fence line into the property to arrange a “swap” of land.
  + One other problem discussed was that we will not own a building built on what is now the park side of the fence. This led to further discussion on perhaps trying to purchase land across the street or evaluating other options.
  + The date for the next meeting of the Stenton Education Center Evaluation Committee will be April 23rd at 10:00AM.

Upcoming Events:

April 4 – Memorial (10:30) and Egg Hunt (1:00)

April 17 – “Dowels, Dovetails” Chairs Workshop (10:00 – 2:00)

May 14 – The Garden Party

Respectfully submitted,

Kaelyn Taylor