MINUTES

Stenton Committee

Date | time 2/2/2017 10:30 AM | Meeting called to order by Carol Rush, Stenton Committee Chair

# In Attendance

Jane Foster Willson, Gina Whelan, Carol Rush, Nina Schaefer, Anne Burnett, Gwen Bryant, Sally Congdon, Alice Lea Tasman, Sidney Spahr, Katy Bieniosek, Betsy Marshall, Kristin Cahn von Seelen and Peggy Conver.

Staff in attendance: Dennis Pickeral, Laura Keim and Kaelyn Barr

# Minutes

Minutes for December were approved with one correction: under Director’s report, correct ‘funs’ to read ‘funds’. *January meeting was cancelled.*

# President’s Report: *Anne Burnett*

* New member orientation on a Saturday this spring is in the works. National has used a webinar for orientation, and we might consider using this model somehow moving forward. It is encouraged that all members check out the webinars offered on the National website.
* Peggy Conver suggested that we try to assemble a new member packet, as well as other promotional “packets” that can be used for development and potential member engagement.
* The Strategic Planning Conference scheduled for February 9 & 10 will have approximately 40 people in attendance based on current RSVP’s.

# Museum Properties

* No Report.

# Stenton Chair Report: *Carol Rush*

* Carol offered an update on the Garden Party planning. The invitation is close to being finished and will go to the printer by February 17th. Sponsor letters have gone out. The committee requested that we try to have additional help with parking this year.
* Garden update: Susan Yeager has been fielding volunteer interest generated by volunteermatch.org. She will be “vetting” potential volunteers and organizing volunteer days.
* There has been a call for advocacy by organizations like AASLH and AAM to rally around national funding through NEH, NEA and IMLS. We would like to participate in National Museum Advocacy Day on February 28th. It was suggested that we try to follow the efforts put forth by the National NSCDA level.

# Directors Report: *Dennis Pickeral (Full Report Attached)*

* Budget planning has begun for the next fiscal year. Friends of Stenton income is currently short of the $15k goal, but a follow up letter for lapsed members will go out in February. We are also considering how to streamline our internet and telecommunications costs.
* The PHMC has granted an extension for Wing work. We have a June goal for completion.
* Historic Germantown received a second round of funding for the Sustaining Our Sites Fund, which we can apply to for external site maintenance and repairs. We are considering asking for help with the gate project. We can ask for up to $8,000.
* We were approved for EITC funding, and are hopeful to engage with approved businesses moving forward.
* We will be advocating for a higher hourly wage for the History Hunters guide staff, raising the wage from $10/hr to $12/hr.

December and January Visitation:

On Site: 1054 ; Web: 1207

# Collections Committee: *Laura Keim*

* Everything is in place to have the Yellow Lodging Room completed by the Garden Party. Fairmount will be starting the painting this month. The cloth is on site and will go to be moth-proofed soon. We will be conducting a weight test with the ceiling hooks this month. We have an unexpected cost with respect to the bed ceiling and fabric tapes which puts the project over budget.
* We will be shuffling some collections objects, including putting the William Logan bookcase into the office. These changes will not necessary be final and the collections committee could potentially reconsider object locations at another time.
* The Logan Memorial ownership has been transferred but conservation is needed. We will be working on getting estimates as well as speaking with Claudia Levy (Landscape Architect) about how the memorial will fit into the larger landscape.
* We received the final recommendations from the students in the Penn Graduate Program in Historic Preservation for the Log House. These recommendations included clapboarding two sides of the cabin to help preserve the building. The students believe that the cabin was clapboarded very early; the clapboarding was removed in 1926.
* We returned three chairs to Peter Pfaffenroth, but we may want to purchase four chairs that we have on loan from him.

# Education and Program Report: *Kaelyn Barr*

* No Report.

# Next Meeting: March 2, 2017 at 9:00AM