MINUTES

Stenton Committee

Date | time 12/6/2018 10:30 AM | Meeting called to order by Dora Rogers, Stenton Committee Chair

# In Attendance

Dora Rogers (chair), Carol Rush, Nina Schaefer, Hannah Henderson, Joyce Keller, Gwen Bryant, Sidney Spahr, Anne Burnett, Betsy Marshall, Suzanne Ullrich, and Sally Congdon

Staff: Laura Keim, Dennis Pickeral, Kenny Robinson and Kaelyn Barr

# Minutes

November minutes were approved as written, motion by Hannah Henderson, Seconded by Nina Schaefer.

# Stenton Chair Report: *Dora Rogers*

* Meeting began with a moment of silence and the Lord’s Prayer.
* The Historic Germantown (HG) Board gathering was wonderful. Dennis did a wonderful presentation for the board members who gathered at the event about the history, structure, and goals of Historic Germantown.
* A draft of the Garden Party invitation was circulated for comments. A Garden Party sponsorship packet will be mailed soon; committee members were encouraged to try and identify potential donors for the event.

# Directors Report: *Dora Rogers, Laura Keim, Kaelyn Barr (Full Report Attached)*

* Science Sleuths program update: Historic Germantown will likely take the lead on funding for getting this project off of the ground. We would be a key partner, but aren’t able to manage the pilot with the other projects we have ongoing.
* Windows and doors in the wing should be repaired soon.
* Giving Tuesday – We raised close to $12,000 total ($5,000 was matched by Trina and Audrey). We would like to try and increase the match amount for next year.
* Interviews for new Development Associate have been taking place over the last couple of weeks. One candidate is a higher-level candidate, with more experience than we were looking for; her salary requirements are a little higher, but she has much more ability and it could be a worthwhile tradeoff. This would be for a shared position with HG.
* Nancy Wingo wrote to us and said she was very thrilled with the History Hunters program after seeing the video and suggested we ask for additional funding for the program through Hamilton this year.
* Dinah project – We started with a first series of community meetings. We had about 25 people participate. The interviews were to gather baseline information about the project and people’s emotions and inclinations towards Stenton and Dinah. One of the major threads in the conversation was that the community members are not necessarily thinking about James Logan or the history at Stenton, but rather are more focused on her story as it relates to a positive narrative for the neighborhood today. The next set of conversations are scheduled for December 17th and 18th.
* Ground Penetrating Radar has been completed- preliminary data is inconclusive. A fascinating discovery included that the Graveyard wall and headstones are intact, but buried under fill.
* The Holiday Tea went very well – very well attended, lots of positive feedback, plenty of food.
* We are partnering with the Stenton Park Advisory Council for a Toy Drive; we will be the collection site. We are asking for new or gently used toy donations.
* The HG Holiday Party is next Thursday the 13th at La Salle University Art Museum.
* October Visitation- Site visitation: 877, Web page views: 2,085

# Collections Committee: *Laura Keim*

* The ladder-back chair that came from Daniel Blain (wife is a Logan descendant) is now in the adjoining room in the mansion.
* The Sulgrave Manor table is now at HQ in the library. It is supposedly made from wood that was grown at Sulgrave – relic table- colonial revival style. The table is not in great condition; it might not have been properly seasoned when it was made. It has been at the Philadelphia History Museum (PHM) since 1911, and it is hard to know when it was made. It might have come from The Historical Society of PA, used as a piece of furniture as opposed to a collection piece.
* PHM update: another partnership is potentially in the works, though not official, and the partner has not been announced.
* An update on Jay Snider’s documents – we could potentially go to the Logan descendants to help raise the funds for their purchase.
* Third floor of the mansion: we are planning to have a room available for the Mid-Atlantic Plantations Conference in October 2019. We’re not sure yet what we’re going to do in terms of interpretation of that space. We could potentially ask Roberto Lugo to create pottery for the space, with a Dinah theme. We could potentially talk to Audrey and Trina about making this a Wetherill fund project.
* Nick Bunker, British Historian, has written a book on young Benjamin Franklin. He is going to be in the area in January and wanted to see if we want to do an event. We might want to do something at Headquarters (HQ).

# Education and Program Report: *Kaelyn Barr*

* No Report.
* Upcoming Programs:
  + February 4 & 5, Dinah Project Community Conversations
  + March 16, *The Art(ifacts) of Cooking: Colonial Kitchens, Archaeology & Cuisine*
  + April 20, *Easter Egg Hunt*

# President’s Report: *Barbara Rogers*

* No Report.

# Facilities and Finance Report: *Peggy Conver*

* Wing Renovations Update: A timeline for the project was circulated at the meeting. (Attached). This included potential funding sources. The goal is currently to raise 1 million. This is a ballpark – we do not have a hard estimate, after approvals are secured we will have a better sense of cost. Committee members are encouraged to suggest potential funders for the project.
  + The Pennsylvania Historical Commission will be reviewing our plans in January (2019). We talked with Michael McLane from Macro consulting about phasing the project, but that would increase the overall cost for the project.
* Michael McLane has met with Peggy and Dennis and is in the process of putting together a proposal for the wing project management. Once approvals are reached in January, we will receive a new proposal from Krieger and Associates for the actual work on the project. Peggy has also asked Mike to keep an eye on HQ, to try and solve elevator/access problem in a less-invasive way.
* Adriana and Peggy have examined a new accounting system called “Intacc” which should help consolidate, simplify and better track our income and expenses as well as staff efforts.
* We will be starting on next year’s budget very soon. Peggy will be in touch about line-item amounts.
* Peggy has reached out to a technology firm (IT-Systems- Jim) to try and get our platforms and systems a little more efficient and consolidated. Donor management can be vastly improved.
* Kenny worked with an electrician to install additional outlets in the greenhouse. The heat at HQ is being taken care of, as well as the asbestos problem. Kenny will also be doing some “winterization” for the wing building and the log cabin.

# Garden Committee Report: *Carol Rush*

* The Garden Committee did not meet in November. Carol reiterated how well the committee is working together. The property looked wonderful for the Holiday Tea on the 1st. The Garden was clear; landscape was looking great. Kudos to our caretakers.
* We have looked at buying some Holly Trees to expand the screen, we would like to wait until spring to plant them.
* Stenton needlepoint canvases are being painted and after Jan 1st we should be able to get them ready to go. Mark up on the sale will benefit the Stenton Garden. Canvas could be on display at the Christmas Stated on December 19th at HQ.

# Meeting Adjourned at 12:05. Next Meeting: February 7, 2019