

St. Mary's County Museum Board of Trustees  
Meeting Minutes: September 17, 2018

1. Call to order at 8:35
2. Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence Observed
3. Roll Call:
  - Present: Peter Butt, Dr. Regina Faden, Jeanette Pettit, Dale Springer, Michael Blackwell, Bryan Barthelme,
  - Not Attending: Victor Govier, Peter Neus, Eleanor Slater, Lynn Fitrell, Christopher Shea
  - County and Museum Personnel Attending: Arthur Shepherd, Karen Stone
4. Approval of July 9, 2018 Minutes: Motion by Peter Butt; seconded by Jeanette Pettit. Unanimously approved
5. Old Business:
  - Department of Natural Resources (DNR) MOU: while a formal signed MOU is ultimately desired, the Trustees and Friends of the Museum are currently satisfied with the verbal agreement that allows us to schedule a calendar of events ahead of time rather than having to get separate permission for every event. When made final, some requirements in the current MOU will be loosened to reflect this change. The DNR is waiting on an engineering report on the stage before finalizing an MOU with the Seventh District Optimists.
  - St Clements Island Museum (SCIM) Renovation: 4 exhibits are planned and largely fleshed out, though some details remain to be made final: a Native American exhibit, an exhibit about the English settlers, an exhibit on the meeting of the two cultures, and an exhibit on the Island. Karen Stone and team have consulted with an official of the Native History Museum of the Smithsonian, getting some good ideas on what is likely to work and what may not work as well. The Engineering Proposal for the renovation is being finished and will be moved forward. At the Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours event three weeks ago, SCIM presented some of the plans for the renovation, successfully reaching many people who had not previously seen the Museum. Arthur Shepherd reviewed what is funded and yet to be funded on the renovation in the County CIP, with a total of \$1.5 million needed for finishing the project in 2022. An expert from Pennsylvania will consult on what to do with Museum's First Settlers mural, which is likely to become a standing wall of its own, perhaps being stored for viewing in Annapolis during renovation.

- Dr. Pettit noted that the Native American Piscataway community now has a Chief, and we shall need to work with him on relevant exhibits and events in the future.

#### 6. New Business:

- Late summer/early autumn were busy: on National Lighthouse weekend, 363 guests visited. Children's Day brought over 400, The art classes went well, with a grant paying for the supplies to keep down costs for participants.
- It was also a busy summer for donations, with many new items coming in, including boat builder Bernie Lawrence's tools and tool boxes, a model of the clam boat "Frisky," and a collection of books.
- Karen and team wrote a grant to get marketing materials and discussed possible materials with a graphic designer, including a rack-sized brochure that will list all our installations with hours, location, etc. We are confident of getting the grant, which was submitted through the Friends in order to have 501 C3 match.
- Some new programming has started: letter boxing (a bit like Geocaching). It is attracting attention.
- SCIM hosted Business After Hours.
- Karen is working with Jason Aul from the Tourism Initiative to promote the museums.
- Karen and team have begun gathering information for a grant in support of a kayak launch, boat lift, and woodland trails, working with Sen. Van Hollern's office.
- Now that our museums have accreditation, Karen is on the accreditation board and so will work with other museums.
- We many swap properties by the SCIM to give us more a better shaped lot, with all parts being together, rather than having the non-contiguous lot at Colton's Point.
- Parking issues: the two lots we use for overflow parking for large events are for sale for \$10,000 each, and a proposal has been written to buy those. The two lots together hold 150 vehicles and are critical for continued larger attendance. The board agrees that this is a good acquisition. Peter Butt asks for an overhead view of the area properties with ownership marked to have a better idea of what lands is or might be ours, and encouraged the development of a future plan to best use our land assets. A discussion then arose about the state giving up its holdings on St Clements Island. The state is putting money into the piers. What is less clear, however, is what the state might be getting from its presence. This are many questions to consider in the future. Arthur Shepherd asks for everyone to be prepared for a "big picture" discussion at our November meeting.
- While the Old Jail in Leonardtown is theoretically open as a visitor center and attraction, the Historical Society has had trouble staffing it and it is usually not open. Their lease is going to run out and the Museum will take

it on and run it as a visitor center and site, with funding coming from other stakeholders.

7. Department Update: Arthur Shepherd: The Old Jail site will give us a presence in downtown Leonardtown and allow for more visibility and promotion of all our facilities. We are in a “holding pattern” for now on taking it over, with several planning considerations begin worked on. One such consideration is arrangements for staffing/funding. These will be worked out as part of the Tourism Plan, with a number of possible solutions currently under consideration.
8. Friend’s Update—Dale Springer:
  - the previously scheduled Friends Board of Directors meeting was postponed due to weather. The Friends Board is Looking to fill vacant Vice President position.
  - Jazz Fest is over: it was successful, with good attendance. The weather was favorable. We are ready to begin planning for next year. One important concern is to plan food service better: it took as much as two hours to get food. Menus should be streamlined, with more seafood and less time-intensive food prep to be added.
  - The Friends are moving forward on membership recruitment, for both individuals and businesses. New materials will be available this fall
9. Upcoming Meetings:
  - The Blessing of the Fleet is the next big event at the Museum, but it is not a Museum event – it is a 7th District Optimist event. After that we go into holiday exhibit mode and then Appraiser Fair, which needs some sprucing up this year.
10. The next meeting will be November 19th at the Potomac Building, Room #14. Dale is hoping for a full showing of the Board since it will be time for elections. He will be contacting folks in the meantime about running for office.