

1. CALL TO ORDER

- A. Establish Quorum: 8:32 a.m.
- B. Moment of Silence
- C. Pledge of Allegiance

2. ROLL CALL

A. Roll Call:

- Attending: Catherine Bowes, Kathy Bailey, Michelle Reloba, Daniel Kerns, Caitlyn Socrates, Conor Wolfe, Michael Blackwell
- For County: Ray Bivens, Karen Stone
- For State of Maryland: Dawn Letts
- For Friends: Janet Cooper

3. Approval of Minutes from September 8, 2025 Meeting

- Motion by Catherine Bowes
- Second by Daniel Kerns
- Approved unanimously

4. NEW BUSINESS

A. Maryland Department of Natural Resources Update: Dawn Letts, Maryland Department of Natural Resources

- The state owns the land portion of the island and leases it to the county. The state appreciates the partnership. Under the new lease, additional property will be added for the museum's use. That lease is in the review process.
- The biggest push for the island is for some larger projects to be completed.
 - An ADA pathway
 - Rebuilding of the landing: Includes ADA compliance on both piers
 - South pier needs some structural repairs
 - The pavilion roof needs repair
 - The stage on the island needs to be shored up
- This work must be completed by the 400th anniversary in 2034
- At Point Lookout, the lighthouse is being restored well; in 2030, it will be 200 years old, making it the oldest standing and operating in the country
 - Work will be done to protect the roadway from water incursion with a living shoreline
- Tree planting at Newtowne Neck and Greenwell State Park

B. 2026 Calendar of Trustees Meetings Dates: at 8:30 a.m. at Potomac Room 14

- January 5
- March 2
- May 4
- July 6
- September 14
- November 2

C. List of Maintenance Needs for Upcoming Budget

- Capital Improvement Budget
 - A small capital fund to ensure ongoing maintenance (\$45,000 a year)
 - Some roofing and siding needs
 - The lighthouse and lighthouse keepers building needs ongoing work—the lighthouse generally needs painting once a year and it would be good to set either a decade to unify the interior or establish an "all period" idea rather than the mish-mash that is currently there.
 - A motion to support this request: moved by Catherine Bowes, second by Michelle Reloba; approved unanimously.
 - The statue at Passive Park needs some maintenance
 - The board is also interested in seeing staff supported

D. Election of New Officers:

- A slate was presented: Chair Michael Blackwell, Vice Chair Michael Brown, Secretary Catherine Bowes
- Nominations from the floor: none
- Motion by Daniel Kerns; seconded by Kathy Bailey. Approved unanimously

5. OLD BUSINESS

A. New Trustee Recruitment: we have one vacancy for the commissioners to approve; please consider recruiting

B. St. Mary's County Museum Division & Friends of St. Clement's Island & Piney Point Museums Update: Karen Stone

- Museum Division Report – September & October 2025
 - SEPTEMBER
 - The Division held a special event this month, held 2 Open House Days, and tabled at 3 events.
 - Drayden African American Schoolhouse was open on 2 weekends
 - FamilyFest on the Potomac was held at Piney Point
 - Tabled at:
 - Wellness Day
 - Thirsty Thursday
 - County Fair
 - County Dept of Aging Health Fair
 - Staff attended:
 - State of the County luncheon
 - Reinterment of 17th century ancestors at HSMC
 - Years of Service recognition (Andrew Ponti & Christina Barbour)
 - UGRR Proclamation reading
 - Boards & Commissions training
 - The SCIM building is gone; construction on new facility has begun
 - Accepted a large donation of Native American objects found on beach locally in 7th District
 - Submitted grants:
 - MD Preservation: restoration of one of the dory boats
 - OCTOBER
 - The Division participated in Citizens Academy
 - Drayden African American Schoolhouse was open on 2 weekends
 - Division participated in multiple One Maryland, One Book events, including author talk at SMCM
 - Division Manager attended MD Lynching Memorial Project Coalition Leaders Summit and Conference
- Friends:
 - 87 current members;
 - 2026 Christmas Ornament is available
 - Dinner & Cruise will use the new boat; events include John Wilkes Booth event, author dinner, possibly a U-boat Black Panther, haunted river, holiday lights and more.
 - In full swing for Rebels & Recoats as a Maryland 250 event.
 - Holiday events will feature a Lego Lighthouse building contest, Frosty the snowman, Santa & Mrs. Claus, Buddy the elf, 15 decorated trees, ornament painting and much more.

C. St. Mary's County Department of Recreation & Parks Update: Ray Bivens, St. Mary's County Department of Recreation & Parks Director

- Mid-December begin transition to new software system, including the Museum Division, allowing reservations for events
- New murals are being completed at Baggett Park; sponsored in part by Cedar Point Federal Credit Union
- Applying for a sustainability grant that would benefit all county agencies with things like solar power

6. ADJOURN

A. Vote to Adjourn at 9:37: motion by Reloba; seconded by Catherine Bowes

B. Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting: January 5, 2026

C. Upcoming Events

November

- 7: Leonardtown First Friday | Old Jail Museum open 10AM to 7PM
- 8: Second Saturday: DIY Ornament Workshop | PPLM, 10AM to 12PM
- 11: Veteran's Day | PPLM & OJM open 10AM to 5PM
- 27: Thanksgiving | PPLM & OJM Closed
- 28: Day after Thanksgiving | PPLM & OJM open 10AM to 5PM
- 28: Christmas on the Square in Leonardtown | Old Jail Museum open 10AM to 8PM
- 29: Evening Tides at PPLM
- 30: Piney Point Lighthouse Museum Holiday Open House | 10AM to 5PM
- 30: Piney Point Lighthouse Museum Holiday Exhibit begins daily | 10AM to 5PM
- 30: Museum Store Sunday at SCIM, PPLM & OJM | 10AM to 5PM

December

- 5: Leonardtown First Friday | Old Jail Museum open 10AM to 7PM
- 14: Cookies & Storytime with Santa at USCT Interpretive Center | 1PM to 3PM
- 24: Christmas Eve | PPLM & OJM Closed
- 25: Christmas Day | PPLM & OJM Closed
- 31: New Year's Eve | PPLM & OJM open 10AM to 5PM