



Board of Trustees Museum Division - Mar 02 2026 Minutes

Monday, March 2, 2026 at 8:30 AM

Room 14, Potomac Building, St. Mary's County Governmental Center, Leonardtown, MD

1. CALL TO ORDER

- A. Establish Quorum - Michael Blackwell, President
- B. Moment of Silence - Michael Blackwell, President
- C. Pledge of Allegiance - Michael Blackwell, President

2. ROLL CALL

- A. Roll Call - Michael Blackwell, President
 - Present Members: Connor Wolfe, Michael Brown, Kathy Bailey, Michelle Reloba, Michael Blackwell, Rosa Hance, Dan Pindell, and Dan Kerns.
 - Present for County: Ray Bivens, Recreation and Parks Director and Karen Stone, Museum Division Manager
- B. Approval of Minutes from January 5, 2026 Meeting - Michael Blackwell, President
 - Motion by Rosa Hance
 - Seconded by Dan Kerns
 - Approved unanimously as presented

3. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Fiscal Year 2027 Budget Update - Karen Stone, Division Manager, St. Mary's County Museum Division
 - Items requested in the upcoming budget include: funds

to maintain and preserve museum sites and items such as USCT Memorial, signage, boats, etc.

B. St. Clement's Island Museum Building Update - Karen Stone, Division Manager, St. Mary's County Museum Division

- The foundation is in place and elevator shaft is up.
- The schedule was pushed out slightly due to weather conditions.
- An exhibit design firm has been identified.
- The plan to move the cannon from the Historical Society to SCIM is being finalized.

C. St. Mary's County Museum Division & Friends of St. Clement's Island & Piney Point Museums Update - Karen Stone, Division Manager, St. Mary's County Museum Division

January

- The Division held annual training session for Museum Assistants
- Video kiosks were installed at Piney Point
- Established partnership between PPLM and a PhD candidate doing a study on blue crabs
- MD Hist Trust Easement Coordinator visited PPLM and USCT
- Repairs were made:
 - To the side basement door of the Keeper's Quarters after it was broken in by vandals
- Division Manager gave 2 presentations:
 - Ladies of the Light – Leonardtown Library talk
 - The UGRR and the Old Jail – UCAC annual meeting

February

- Senior Staff attended:
 - Small Museum Association Conference
 - Tourism Day in Annapolis
 - SOMD Legislative Reception
 - Chesapeake Gateways Annual Partners Meeting
- A Civil War print was accepted as a donation to the USCT Interpretive Center
- Shore erosion project at Piney Point is finished; plantings will be installed in the spring

- SCIM building project is moving along; exhibit design firm has been identified
- Visit St. Mary's MD tourism arranged an interview on Good Morning Washington (ABC7) about Rebels & Redcoats
- Old Jail Museum participated in Moll Dyer Weekend
- Division Manager gave 2 presentations:
 - Behind the Page author's talk; Central Rappahannock Regional Library
 - The Museum Division Overview; Leonardtown Rotary Club
- A grant was awarded this month:
 - MD 250th in support of Rebels & Redcoats and other 250th events - \$15,000

Upcoming

- March
 - 25th: Maryland Day – Mass only – 10am on the Island
 - 29th: Installation ceremony for Stuffed Ham Marker
- April
 - 11-12: Rebels & Redcoats
 - 26th: Black Diamond Wreath Laying Ceremony & Concert

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

- Maryland International Raceway is taking old playground equipment in exchange for marketing for museums and golf course.
- The Department partnered with the Town of Leonardtown on a new splash pad grant for the Wieck Playground/Miedzinski Park.
- The YMCA partnership is moving forward with the new daycare facility opening in August 2026.
- The Department is hoping to receive a greenspace equity grant for passive parks.
- Upcoming special events include the Easter Egg Festival and the Cherry Blossom Festival.

- The new Water Taxi passed inspections and the shore erosion project at Piney Point Lighthouse Museum is nearly complete.

4. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Maryland Day Planning - Karen Stone, Division Manager, St. Mary's County Museum Division
- Maryland Day will include Mass on St. Clement's Island at 10:00 am; no mainland activities this year due to new facility construction. There will be a reception at Potomac Gardens immediately after the Stuffed Ham marker unveiling on the 29th
 - Michael Blackwell suggested bylaws and Strategic Plan reviews for next meeting.

5. ADJOURNMENT

- A. Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting: May 4, 2026 - Michael Blackwell, President
- B. Upcoming Events in 2026
- Maryland Day, March 25
 - Installation ceremony for stuffed ham marker, March 29
 - Rebels and Redcoats, April 11-12
 - Black Diamond Wreath Laying, April 26
- C. Adjourn - Michael Blackwell, President
The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 a.m.

CAO

Mayor