



Board of Trustees Museum Division - Jul 06 2026 Minutes

Monday, July 6, 2026 at 8:30 AM

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

1. CALL TO ORDER

- A. Establish Quorum
- B. Moment of Silence
- C. Pledge of Allegiance

2. ROLL CALL

- A. Roll Call

Members Present: Connor Wolfe, Michelle Reloba, Kathy Bailey, Michael Blackwell, Rosa Hance, Valmora Lewis, Dan Pindell, Caitlyn Socrates, Dan Kerns. Catherine Bowes also attended.

Present for County: Ray Bivens, St. Mary's County Department of Recreation & Parks Director; Karen Stone, St. Mary's County Museum Division Manager; Ben Clark, St. Mary's County Department of Public Works & Transportation.

Present for the Friends of St. Clements Island & Piney Point Museums: Janet Cooper, Administrator.

Others Present: Doug Holt, Adler Display (virtually).

- B. Approval of minutes from May 4, 2026 Meeting

Motion by Dan Kerns

Seconded by Caitlyn Socrates

Approved as presented

3. OLD BUSINESS

- A. St. Mary's County Museum Division & Friends of St. Clements Island & Piney Point Museums Updates

Karen Stone provided a report of events and activities of the Museum Division over the last two months. Highlights included: Water Taxi updates, Drayden Schoolhouse application for National Register, educational programming events, and many other

museum and community events. Some of the events included: American Alliance of Museums annual conference, Liberty Tree planting at Thomas Stone, and Maryland Tourism Coalition Travel & Tourism week activities. Piney Point Lighthouse Museum had maintenance and repairs such as painting, power washing, fence repairs and landscaping.

Janet Cooper provided an update on the activities and events of the Friends. She stated there is still time to register for the Dinner & A Cruise series. Events planned for the future include the First Landing Festival and Appraiser's Fair enhancements.

B. Recreation and Parks Department Update

Mr. Bivens noted that July is National Recreation and Parks month. The Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan (LPPRP) update is moving forward; many have expressed interest in nature, trails, and connectivity. Also, funding was approved in FY2027 for museum maintenance projects.

4. NEW BUSINESS

A. Update on Exhibits at New St. Clement's Island Museum Building - Doug Holt, Karen Stone and Ben Clark

A project update was provided. Ben stated that the project is moving along to include foundational and infrastructure work; next steps include trusses and roof plywood and sheathing. The project is generally on schedule, with the building estimated to be completed in January 2027 and ready for use by March.

Doug Holt, Adler Display, described the final display concepts to the Board. These included inspirations for panels, display cases, rails and color palettes. Designs included exhibits from the 17th century English and Piscataway narratives. St. Clement's Island history and watermen of the Seventh District will be featured.

B. Department of Recreation & Parks Community Engagement Update

View: <https://www.youtube.com/live/4L8b-Jh2KOk?si=Ab2LeTzuNDlezu1&t=303>

C. Group Appreciation of Museum Employees Discussion

Connor Wolfe suggested the Board explore ways to recognize Museum hourly staff and volunteers for doing a great job. Some suggestions were signed cards, nominate a fellow employee for an award or a trip to the island for lunch. Board to consider and discuss at the next meeting.

5. ADJOURNMENT

A. Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting: September 14, 2026

B. Upcoming Events:

July

11: Second Saturdays: Helping Backyard Birds

18: Drayden African American Schoolhouse Open House

August

1: Drayden African American Schoolhouse Open House

7: Leonardtown First Friday at Old Jail Museum

8 - 9: National Lighthouse Weekend at PPLM

8: Second Saturdays: Potomac Palette
15: Drayden African American Schoolhouse Open House
23: Dinner & a Cruise: Between North & South
24 - 27: St. Clement's Island Museum Art Kids

September

4: Leonardtown First Friday at Old Jail Museum
5: Drayden African American Schoolhouse Open House
7: Labor Day | Museums Open
12: FamilyFest on the Potomac at Piney Point

C. Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 9:40 a.m.