

FINAL  
Historic Brookline Church Advisory Committee Minutes

22 March 2016

Peter Meyer called the meeting to order at 7:18 pm. Committee members present: Mark Bills, Bruce Mello, Kerry Bourne, Helen Samuels, joined by new member Lee Anne Parker

In compliance with the open meeting law, Peter Meyer asked if there was a request to change the order of any of the items on the agenda. There were no requests.

Peter Meyer welcomed Lee Anne to the committee and asked that she introduce herself to the committee and indicate why she was interested in joining the committee. Lee Anne indicated that she had worked with the group that renovated the Williamsville Grange, and hoped that her experience and background would be useful to our work as well. She was warmly welcomed to the Committee by all in attendance.

The minutes of the 8 March meeting were reviewed, corrected and approved. The minutes were corrected to indicate that the beautiful watercolor of the Historic Brookline Church was painted by Ms. Fischer and framed by Paul Madalinski.

The suggestion was made that the Committee could use the Front Porch Forum as a means to get information to the larger community about our progress. Currently we have a home page, but the Front Page Forum could be an additional means of communication.

The Committee took the issue of changing the name of the building to reflect its new use to the Selectboard, who then asked the Committee to generate a list of possibilities. Our first brainstorming session yielded:

- Brookline Meeting House,
- Brookline Bell House
- Brookline Historic Parish
- Historic Brookline Church
- Brookline Event Center
- Grassy Brook Meeting House
- Grassy Brook Community Meeting House
- The Heart of Brookline
- Brookline Station
- 632 Grassy Brook Road
- Brookline Recreation Center
- Brookline Music and Art Center
- Grassy Brook Rising

Red Brick Center  
Brookline Community Center  
Red Brick Meeting House  
Grassy Brook Rising  
Red Brick Meeting House

A question was raised about the current use of the Athens Meeting House. Kerry volunteered to look into that question.

A motion was made by Lee Anne to suspend the discussion of a name for the building. Peter seconded the motion which was then passed.

#### Review of discussion with Selectboard

The Committee received authorization from the Selectboard for the immediate landscaping work that needs to be accomplished around the building. The question of the southern boundary of the property was tabled until the location of the present and possible future septic system(s) can be determined. It was also agreed the boundary lines might not need to be adjusted once the current lines are verified. We were also informed that the Selectboard would have to approve the design of a new septic system.

The Selectboard also clarified that the Committee need to bring issues to the Selectboard when they involve the expenditure of funds, and to keep them posted on our progress. We should also alert them when there be insurance issues, and we may have to get participants in something like a cleanup to sign an insurance release.

The group returned to the topic of a new name for the building, and it was agreed that we would present the Selectboard with a list of three possibilities. The group also agreed that because the building is now Town property, we should move forward with the critical changes that need to be addressed.

As Bruce arrived late, the group then returned to the list of possible names for the building and the members voted for their preferences. The top six choices, were:

Brookline Meeting House  
Brookline Recreation Center  
Brookline Community Center  
Brookline Bell House  
Brookline Arts and Recreation Center  
Brookline Meeting and Arts Center

Peter asked that before our next meeting, each member of the Committee should pick their 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> choice, and we will then return to this discussion at the next meeting.

The group briefly reviewed the projects that could be included in a grant to the Vermont Arts Council. These include ADA compliance (ramps, bathrooms, etc.) , sound system, heating systems etc. This discussion also provided a reminder of why the name of the building should reflect its use for cultural purposes. Based on our priorities and grant deadlines, the group agreed to review the appropriate sequence of grant applications.

For other grant planning and fundraising, we already have quotes, bids and contractors for our priority projects: window repair, heavy timber work and the belfry rook replacement.

New business: Helen Samuels asked the group to consider forming a program committee in the near future. At this point such a group could provide advice about the needs of those who would use/perform in the building: sound systems, acoustic issues, exhibit requirements etc. Eventually such a group could play a key role in planning and executing the programs that will be held in the building. The Selectboard would have to approve the formation of such a committee.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20

The next meeting of the Committee is 11 April 2014 at 7pm

