

FINAL
Historic Brookline Church Advisory Committee Minutes

8 March 2016

Peter Meyer called the meeting to order at 7:15 pm. Committee members present: Mark Bills, Bruce Mello, and Helen Samuels.

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.

The minutes of the 22 February meeting were reviewed, corrected and approved.

Change of membership: Stan Noga has resigned from the committee due to a very heavy workload, and Cynthia Nau was not reappointed. The Committee would therefore like to add some new members. Though the committee currently has members who bring a broad range of relevant knowledge and experience to our work, the group would welcome other Brookline residents with the interest and skills to enhance our efforts. An email message will be sent to the community asking those interested to contact Peter Meyer. Residency in Brookline is not a requirement for membership.

In light of the fact that Town Meeting was subjected to a power outage that day, the topic of a generator for the Community Center building was discussed. If the Community Center becomes an emergency location it would be possible to then get a generator for the building.

As the request for funds to move forward with the belfry roof, as well as the window and heavy timber repairs, the Committee. Kerry is proceeding to get this work underway.

Paul Madalinski has created a beautiful watercolor image of the Brookline Community Center building. Thought should be given to reproducing this image, with Paul's permission.

Paul and Somara's son Max is now working as a landscape designer. If Max is interested and willing we could ask him to propose a landscape design for the property. We could invite him to a meeting for such a discussion. More immediately the group agreed to evaluate the large trees around the site in light of parking and access requirements. As part of this work a new sign should be placed in the front of the building. We can work on the wording but one possibility was: *The Brookline Community Center – Housed in the Former Historic Brookline Church.*

These projects and our other immediate needs should be compiled into a master list of projects that must be completed. Among these projects would be to work with Green Mountain Power to bury the wires in front of the building, drainage issues, heating, handicapped access, parking, code improvements, etc. Estimated costs will be included. This list will be taken to the Selectboard for their review.

The Committee should work not only on the master list of work to be done, but the desired sequence of that work as well.

Attention to how the building will be used will both clarify needed renovations, but also strength our ability to raise funds.

Helen will work with Peter to revise and update our list of prospective grants – and trying to match upcoming projects with possible granting agencies.

Bruce also reminded the group that this year we are marking the 180th birthday of the building. The group agreed that a mid August celebration would be appropriate.

The summer will be busy as repairs begin on the windows, etc, The group agreed to construct a billboard near the road: WHAT'S HAPPENING?? And we can then post updates on the current work.

The Selectboard will also be asked to address the southern boundary line of the old school.

The next meeting of the Committee will take place on 22 March at 7pm at the Town Office.