

## May 2, 2016 Final Minutes

### Historic Brookline Church Advisory Committee

Present: Peter Meyer, Helen Samuels, Kerry Bourne, Bruce Mello, Lee Anne Parker

6:30 The meeting began at the church. Kerry took us through, up and around the structure to acquaint us with its current state and areas of concern. There was much discussion about the importance of chronicling each step of this exciting restoration to share with the community.

7:30 Meeting reconvened at the Town Office. Minutes from 4/11 meeting were accepted with minimal changes. First agenda item was reporting the name change status and final vote tally. Top vote went to Brookline Meeting House with Brookline Community Center following closely. A total of 45 votes were tallied. Peter will submit vote results to the Select Board on 5/4 for their official decision. Heavy lobbying persists to consider adding 'and Arts Center' to the name especially with the most recent opportunity from the performing arts community. The Committee agreed to table the conversation until next year.

Bob DuCharme, longtime resident of Brookline and renowned director of plays for over 30 years, approached Peter for a tour of the building and shared his interest in staging productions in the building this coming August. The board wholeheartedly supports his interest and agreed this was exactly what the restoration is all about, however with the amount of construction planned for this summer any stage productions would need to wait until 2017. Peter will relay this to Bob along with our excitement and gratitude.

Kerry reported on the state and timing of the repairs to take place this summer. At this time we have area business commitments but no projected dates. Kerry will follow up with contractors and report back on status. Peter suggested we find a good time this month to do some general landscape clean up and remove the plastic over the windows. Helen suggested some plantings around the sign and other areas that wouldn't be disturbed by the ensuing construction. Everyone was on board.

The Windham Foundation Grant application was reviewed in its current draft state. The approach this year will be to focus the request funding on the \$4000 balance needed for window repair. Peter and Helen agreed to continue work on it, review the Foundations presentation criteria, and speak with Somara Zwick, Town Treasurer, to garner her support in supplying the financial statistics required. A final draft will be presented to the committee May 16<sup>th</sup> with the intent to submit the grant by their May 18<sup>th</sup> deadline.

8:15 New Business: Bruce Mellow suggested we look at the Vermont Arts Council grant opportunities for next year and provided us with a copy of their 2016 outline criteria

application. It was agreed that with the interest expressed by Bob DuCharme for stage productions our chances of success would be increased. Next year's grant deadline is in May giving us the coming winter to apply for fund support available the fall of 2017. Peter brought up the subject of signage for the building. Kerry will follow up with Mike Staats who mentioned some interest in helping. The existing sign will be retained to become part of a historical display. This display site could also be used to acknowledge contributions from the community, old photos and restoration pictures.

Next meeting dates: May 16, May 30 and June 13 at 7 pm, location to be announced.

Meeting adjourned at 8:56.

Respectfully submitted,

Lee Anne Parker

May 3, 2016