

BROOKLINE MEETINGHOUSE COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

MEETING DATE: August 29, 2019

Members present: Lee Anne Parker, Kerry Bourne, Dan Towler, Sara Wiswall

Lee Anne called the meeting to order at 6:07 PM.

Tonight's agenda was reviewed and approved.

Minutes of our last meeting Aug. 8, 2019 were reviewed and approved with a couple of minor revisions.

Regarding our contract with Serv Pro to remove bat guano, the town has paid the 50% deposit of \$1,409. Kerry has spoken with Serv Pro and they want to meet once more at the building (as does Kerry) to review the contract and the work order. A date for this has not been set, nor has a date to begin the work, but we hope to have these dates lined up soon.

Regarding the building's septic system, Kerry (with assistance from Dan) has excavated the tank, leach pit (dry well), and connecting pipes behind the building, all by hand in recent weeks, and determined the system to be basically functional, with minor repair, which was completed. The various components have been inspected, measured, photographed and documented as to their location and condition. The 4" pipe from the tank to the leach pit was found to be compromised and was replaced by KB with a new PVC pipe. Both tank and leach pit appear to be completely sound and are virtually empty. Michael Marquise of Marquise & Morano Civil & Environmental Engineers has agreed to visit the site next week and give us an appraisal of the existing system, with advice and recommendations on its sustainability for future use and/or possible need for replacement.

Kerry has also secured an estimate from Momaney Painters for painting the steeple of the Meetinghouse. Other bids will be sought, with the goal of raising the funds and completing this project in 2020.

There was some discussion of one of our other major rehabilitation priorities, which is the repair or rebuilding of the foundation under the church's wood annex, and how this project needs to be considered hand-in-hand with our other goals of making the building fully accessible as well as upgrades to the bathroom and kitchen, and winterizing it for possible year-round use.

It was agreed that we will continue to gather the information needed to address these projects.

Regarding applying for National Historic Register status for the Meetinghouse, Dan has been in contact with the state Historic Preservation Office, which has expressed support for this effort. The state Architectural Historian, Devin Colman, happened to be in the area on Thurs. Aug. 29, and agreed to come by the Meetinghouse for a first-hand look. He was impressed with the

building and said that he thinks it belongs on the National Register. He also said that a historic preservation consultant is often engaged to assist with the application process, since it is quite complicated. He supplied a list of such people the state has worked with, which included two from Windham County. Dan has reached out to both and heard back from Paula Sagerman of Brattleboro, who is very familiar with the Meetinghouse and has lots of experience assisting with National Register applications. Her fee for this service is \$1,500.

We will continue to gather information and discuss pursuing this further.

Regarding the proposed grant application to the Windham Regional Commission --

The opportunity to apply for this planning grant was brought to our attention two weeks ago by the town planning commission, but the deadline for submission of applications is October 1.

The grant would pay for 90% of planning efforts approved, up to a maximum of \$22,000, with the town paying the remaining 10%. Lee Anne and Dan have spent the past two weeks reviewing materials and the application form sent by the WRC, strategizing about what specific planning needs we might have that the grant could help with, reaching out to consultants who do this kind of work, etc. It has become apparent that the amount of work required to put together an effective application in the limited time we have to do it might be more than we can handle.

After much discussion, the Committee voted to suspend work on this application for this year and work on fine-tuning our needs and to get a better head start on it next year.

Lee Anne suggested, and the Committee agreed, that we plan for a major fund-raising effort between now and the end of the year to raise money to pay for the steeple-painting job.

She reported that we have \$21,856 still in our account, but we need to work on adding to that total and conserve what we have so that we can match any grant monies that may come our way in the future.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:41 PM.

Our next meeting was set for Thursday, Sept. 19 at 6:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Daniel Towler