

## **BROOKLINE MEETINGHOUSE COMMITTEE**

### **MEETING MINUTES**

MEETING DATE: Sept. 19, 2019

Members present: Lee Anne Parker, Kerry Bourne, Dan Towler, Sara Wiswall, Stan Noga Jr., Dot Maggio

Lee Anne called the meeting to order at 6:08 PM

Lee Anne and members welcomed Dot Maggio to the Committee. All are extremely pleased to have her on board.

Tonight's agenda was reviewed and approved.

Minutes of our last meeting Aug. 29, 2019 were reviewed and approved with minor revisions.

LAP reviewed the recent effort to pursue a municipal planning grant from Windham Regional Commission, which, in the end, the BMC decided to suspend for this year due to the amount of work required and the short amount of time that we had left to complete it. Many valuable contacts were made and information gathered, which will benefit us whether or not we decide to pursue this grant next year.

There was discussion of which aspects of the MH restoration, if any, would require planning or technical assistance, and ADA accessibility -- with its impact on building entrances, kitchen & bathroom layout, and parking -- and HVAC (with separate plans for the church proper and the wood addition) were identified as areas where we could use the most help of that kind.

Stan made a motion, which was seconded by Sara, that we continue the discussion of our planning needs such as would be covered by this grant, and try to arrive at a decision much earlier next year whether to pursue this grant again when it comes up.

The motion passed with all in favor.

Dan reviewed for the BMC the various contacts he has made with the State Division for Historic Preservation and the Preservation Trust of Vermont and the information he has gotten from both groups.

There was brief discussion of whether or not to apply for National Register status for the MH, with members concerned that it would add a layer of regulation to what we could do in, with, and to the building. Dan assured members that, in his understanding, that is not the case. He has also been in contact with a historic preservation consultant from Brattleboro, Paula Sagerman, who assists with Nat. Register applications among other things, and she has offered to attend one of our meetings to answer any questions we might have and to offer her perspective on preservation and repurposing of historic buildings such as ours.

LAP has received a brief assessment of our septic system from Michael Marquise of Marquise & Morano Engineers, who did an on-site inspection on his own time. The system, which has been uncovered most of the summer, will be covered back up now that it has been thoroughly inspected and its placement and condition documented for our records.

LAP also reported that she has received a very thorough report from Ned Phoenix of Phoenix Reed Organ Resurrection regarding the organ that is in the Meetinghouse. The organ we have was built in 1895 by the Western Cottage Organ Co. of Ottawa, IL. It is playable in its current condition, but is badly in need of restoration, which Mr. Phoenix described in detail, along with estimates for his work should we decide to hire him to do this.

MEETINGHOUSE COMMITTEE MINUTES 9/19/19, PAGE TWO

Serv Pro has been at the Meetinghouse for the past two full days fulfilling their contract to remove the decades' worth of bat guano from upper levels of the building. Upon initial inspection, it appears that the job was completed satisfactorily. The Committee agreed that Kerry should notify the Selectboard to authorize the final payment to Serv Pro of the balance owed, once he has had a chance to do a more thorough inspection of the work. He will get in touch with the SB prior to their next meeting on Oct. 2.

As reported at our last meeting, Kerry has received one estimate to date for the painting of the steeple and is waiting for others. It has been discovered that the base of the steeple on the east side (facing the rear of the building) badly needs flashing, which will have to be taken care of once the equipment is in place to paint the steeple next year.

BMC agreed to postpone the agenda item "Review and update project goals 2019-2020" until our next meeting.

There was brief discussion of fall festivals and holidays which might provide an opportunity for outreach and fund-raising. It was agreed that we will try to do something for Hallowe'en.

Also postponed, due to the lateness of the hour and the coldness of the building, was discussion of any in-house fall cleaning projects.

Stan announced receipt of a donation of \$150 from a friend of the Meetinghouse.

Our next meeting will be held at the Town Offices October 10, 2019 at 6:00 PM.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:53 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel Towler