

BROOKLINE MEETINGHOUSE COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

MEETING DATE: Oct. 10, 2019

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

Members of the public present: Bruce Mello

Lee Anne called the meeting to order 6:03 PM

Lee Anne moved that the minutes of our last meeting Sept. 19 be approved as written;

Dot seconded; so voted unanimously

Buildings & Grounds update --

Kerry has covered the until-recently excavated septic system behind the church addition.

Needs another load of fill to bring up to grade; Kerry will follow up.

Kerry reported that the guano removal job was completed satisfactorily & Serv Pro has been paid in full.

Lee Anne will talk to Guy about turning off water to the building and seeing that pipes are drained for winter.

Dot reminded us that fire extinguishers in the MH should be inspected regularly and kept up to date. DT will inventory fire extinguishers in the MH and coordinate with Guy to have Code 3 service them as necessary.

Project goals 2019-2020 --

Lee Anne presented for discussion a preliminary list of building issues yet to be addressed --

1. Painting the bell tower; repairing flashing or installing where missing.
2. Making the MH fully ADA accessible, inc. entrances, bathroom & kitchen.
Bruce pointed out that grants for this are readily available and that the Vermont Center for Independent Living may be able to offer guidance.
3. Rebuilding foundation under the addition.
4. Upgrade to more modern, efficient heaters in the addition & inspect chimneys if they are going to continue to be used. Rick Perkins had given Bruce an estimate for 3 Rinnai propane heaters to be used in the sanctuary & the addition in Feb. 2018.
Lee Anne expressed that we are mainly focused on heating the addition at this time.
5. Inspect the 2 cooking stoves to see if they can be made safe to use.
6. Insulate the addition; replace windows and doors as needed and/or add storm windows & doors.
7. Paint the exterior of the addition; contingent on ADA planning.
8. Mold remediation, plaster repair, and painting of building interior.

There was some discussion of how to fund above repairs, with agreement that more thorough discussion will take place at subsequent meetings. The hope of BMC is to raise funds ourselves to complete #1 on the list in 2020, and to continue planning and aggressively pursue funding for the remaining items over the next year, with initial focus on #2 through #5.

Fund-raising/outreach/publicity --

BMC decided to shelve plans to open the building for Hallowe'en, given cold weather, early darkness, small number of people likely to be interested, etc.

The idea of multiple "open house" type events in 2020 was discussed.

BMC is in agreement that a fund-raising letter to come out early in the "holiday season" is a good idea, to be mailed to every resident in Brookline and perhaps other interested parties.

Dan offered to draft a letter, with input from others on the Committee.

Dot will contact Five Maples, a company in Putney that does direct-mailings, to see if they could help us.

The idea of a tri-fold brochure, possibly to go out with the fund-raising letter, was also discussed, and Lee Anne will continue to work on that.

There was brief discussion of grants to apply for in 2020, with further discussion to come at subsequent meetings. The ones we know of that are worth exploring are --

Vermont Division for Historic Preservation

Windham Regional Commission planning grant

Vermont Arts Council Cultural Facilities Fund

Other business --

There was on-going discussion of having petty cash available for small purchases made on behalf of the MH by BMC members, and procedures for reimbursement if petty cash is not available.

Bruce gave an update on progress of repairs to the former Brookline School building.

He hopes that by the end of 2020, those repairs will be substantially complete, and income from leasing the building can be diverted to the MH Restoration Fund.

Dan asked that we continue discussion of applying for National Register status for the MH.

Dan also asked that we continue to discuss making BMH t-shirts to sell.

Next meeting is scheduled for 4 weeks from now -- Nov. 7, 2019, Town Offices, 6:00 PM

Dot made a motion to adjourn; Kerry seconded; so voted unanimously.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel Towler