

BROOKLINE MEETINGHOUSE COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

MEETING DATE: Tuesday, Sept. 14, 2021, 6:00 PM @ BMH

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

LAP called the meeting to order at 6:08 PM.

Various possible additions to the agenda were discussed, subject to time constraints.

Draft minutes from our last meeting Aug. 10, 2021 were reviewed and unanimously approved without amendment.

Brief review of recent Open House on Sat. Sept. 4 (our 4th this year), which was more well-attended than any previous, possibly 40-50 people. We are keeping track of as many names as possible of attendees in order to keep in touch and possibly to recruit new committee members and/or help of various kinds, and also to keep track of donations received.

- LAP is working on a list of recent donors with different levels of support, so that we can post it in the building and offer thanks and recognition.
- LAP and DM are working together to develop a system to keep track of donations and expenditures. Procedure for keeping petty cash for use by committee members for minor expenditures was discussed and agreed upon.

BMH has a new entrance key. The Committee will be allowed 2 copies, probably one for LAP and one for DT. DT will ask Guy for a second one.

- DT will look into acquiring a lock-box with punch code for storage of a key on the premises.

Committee briefly discussed Gary Lavorgna's email expressing concern about the condition of the steps leading into the back entrance. No action was taken but this will be investigated and discussed further at subsequent meetings.

- LAP is working on a thank-you card for Mike Staats acknowledging the value of his contribution. We are all awed by the beauty of the new sign he created for us and the time and work that went into it.

Estimates for storm windows for both the historic windows on the sanctuary and the windows on the addition were reviewed. We have one from Continental Screen & Glass of Newfane, and one from Allied Window of Cincinnati. DT mentioned that the state architectural historian recommends Allied for historic integrity and unobtrusive appearance. However, the added cost of shipping and installation makes these a much more difficult choice.

After discussion, Dot made a motion, which Lee Anne seconded, to purchase three storm windows for the 20-over-20 windows on the north side of the sanctuary @ \$488.60 each, and 6 storm windows for the north and south facing windows on the meeting room in the wood annex @ \$266.33 each, for a total expense of \$3,063.78, from Continental. Motion was unanimously approved.

We will use \$1,465.80 for the three larger storm windows on the sanctuary from the \$3,000 generously donated this year by David Schupp of Granby, CT and Brookline.

We will assess how these windows look on the sanctuary before committing to the three on the south side. There are already two storm windows on the south side of the addition, so with six new ones, we will be able to cover all the windows on north & south sides of the rear wood portion of the building, protecting them from any further deterioration and making that part of the building much easier to heat.

- LAP will contact Continental to place the order.

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KB removed the upper sash from the north wall of the meeting room that needs some repair, which he will do in his shop.

DM and DT led discussion of plaque options to display National Register listing of the building, which was officially announced earlier this month. Both will continue to research this and bring a proposal to the next meeting. Round Schoolhouse also needs a plaque, and perhaps both can be ordered at once. William G. Pomeroy Foundation offers grants for National Register plaques, which we will explore.

DT asked for and received permission from the BMC and the SB to craft a press release for the local papers regarding our National Register listing. He has been in contact with the Brattleboro Reformer about submitting something soon and they are interested in helping us promote this.

It was agreed that we will ring the bell at the BMH at noon on Oct. 2 at our next Open House, in honor of the above mentioned recognition, and LAP will mention this in publicity for the event.

LAP proposed a wreath-making project in late fall, with the help of the Bourne family and others, to make wreaths to sell prior to the holidays. BMC enthusiastically supports the idea. Other fund-raising initiatives will be taken up at subsequent meetings, including a possible end-of-the-year mailing and possible request for funds from Town Meeting.

LAP will announce plans for a plant sale to be held Memorial Day weekend, 2022, on our facebook page.

LAP initiated discussion of tasks we can possibly complete this fall in-house, including further deep cleaning of woodwork and floors, additional plaster repair in the meeting room, addition of a few electrical outlets where needed. Also discussion of soliciting bids from local painters for interior painting in kitchen & meeting room and painting front doors of the Meetinghouse.

DM updated members on discussions among the Select Board about the future stewardship of the Round Schoolhouse, given that the "Historical Society" has not been active in recent years... whether to put both buildings under the purview of one committee or have two separate committees, pros and cons of both approaches. BMH Committee would prefer to continue to focus on the BMH, but would be anxious to cooperate and work with a separate committee, if one is appointed, to oversee the Round Schoolhouse. Select Board will continue to discuss this and keep our committee in the loop.

DM briefed members on Brookline share of federal ARPA funds, which may be used to expand broadband in Brookline, among other things. Members expressed great interest in having wifi capability at the BMH.

Currently, laptop computers are useless at BMH meetings, which is a great handicap for many reasons.

DT reported briefly on a visit to the Rockingham Meeting House, and wanted to discuss possible collaboration with other historic meetinghouses in the area, such as we have initiated with the Athens Meeting House committee, but this discussion was postponed until a later meeting.

Next meeting was set for Tuesday, October 5, 2021, same time, same place.

Meeting adjourned @ 8:14 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel Towler