

BROOKLINE MEETINGHOUSE COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

MEETING DATE: Tuesday, November 2, 2021, 6:00 PM @ BMH

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

LAP called the meeting to order at 6:10.

Minutes of our last meeting on Oct. 5 were reviewed and approved without amendment.

LAP reported that donations in 2021 have totaled \$3,896, including \$896 from our four open houses and \$3,000 towards storm windows. There was discussion of tightening up our system for keeping track of donations and also petty cash expenditures.

DM showed us a proposed donation slip which could be included with our annual fund-raising letter.

Storm windows for the building have been ordered by Continental. We have no information on a date for installation, but are assuming it will be this year.

LAP read her draft of a fund-raising letter which we are hoping to mail out to all residents of Brookline and Newfane. DM reported on a mailing tool the US Post Office offers called "Every Door Direct Mail" which costs 20 cents per piece. DM & LAP will check with PO to nail down the specifics of how this works, who would be covered, etc. The goal is to get our letter to every resident of the two towns plus non-resident tax-payers in Brookline and out-of-town supporters whose addresses we have. This will be a dramatic expansion of the number covered by our brochure mailing of two years ago, which only went out to the 300+ Brookline tax-payers. The logistics of printing, addressing, and mailing these letters will be worked out before the end of November and we will be scheduling a work session to prepare them for mailing.

LAP reported meeting Howard Cutler, whose ancestors were among the first European settlers in Brookline and instrumental in the construction of the Baptist Church. He lives in Seattle but has been visiting Brookline researching his ancestry, and LA gave him a tour of the Meetinghouse. We hope to be able to facilitate his efforts to connect with his Brookline roots.

LAP proposed that we gather materials and schedule a wreath-making get-together in late November or early December. We will invite anyone who wants to participate and hope to be able to decorate the building for the holidays. LA will procure materials, KB will provide greens.

(continued on next page)

BMC Minutes (continued)

Peter Seares, a Brattleboro resident who has attended our open houses and expressed great enthusiasm for our building, has invited on our behalf two classical musicians from the Brattleboro Music Center to come and test the acoustics and suitability for classical performance at the Meetinghouse. They -- Bill Toomey and Wendy Redlinger -- will come with their instruments -- a "portativ" organ and a "vihuela", a lute-like instrument, on Saturday, Nov. 6, at 10:00 AM. LAP will arrive early and turn on the Rinnai and a portable electric heater (supplied by KB). Select Board members have been invited, but this is not a public event, merely a "test run" for possible future use of the building.

As per a request from the SB, the combination to the lock box containing the key will be provided to the staff at the Day Care next door for emergency use.

LAP has submitted a request for information about an upcoming grant administered by the Preservation Trust of Vermont.

KB has submitted an invoice for time & materials for repair of two window sashes in the meeting room, totaling \$876. He offered to take this on after we tried unsuccessfully to locate a contractor who could help us.

DT has been in contact with the Guilford Historical Society, which is responsible for maintenance of the Guilford Center Meetinghouse, a former Universalist Church built in 1837. It is hoped that we can bring together other groups representing historic village meetinghouses in Windham County, in order to share expertise and resources, as we have begun to do with the Athens committee. To be discussed further.

DM moved to adjourn, KB second, and meeting adjourned at 7:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Daniel Towler