

BROOKLINE MEETINGHOUSE COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Date: Monday, December 5, 2022, 5:00 PM @ Brookline Town Office

Members present: Lee Anne Parker, Dan Towler, Dot Maggio, Julia Duke, Stuart Duke

Select Board members present (besides Dot): Stan Noga, Jr

LAP called the meeting to order at 5:06 PM.

LAP moved to accept minutes of our last meeting Nov. 1, 2022, DM second; all were in favor.

LAP reported that the balance in the Meetinghouse Restoration Fund as of 12/2/22, according to the Town Treasurer, is **\$30,832**.

Lee Anne & Julia worked together to design and write our year-end fund-raising letter and get it to the printer and in the mail. Members expressed appreciation for their efforts and with the content and appearance of the letter. Dot reported that we have received 12 donations totaling **\$1,235** since the letter went out.

Suggestion for future appeals and for our public on-line presence: create a mechanism for donating to the Meetinghouse Restoration Fund electronically.

The cost to print and send the letter was **\$804** – \$550 for printing and \$197 for postage for the bulk mailing, and \$57 for printing & postage for the letters sent to previous donors and friends.

Jenna Lapachinski of the **Preservation Trust of VT** has indicated she will be in Brookline to meet with us at the BMH on **Tuesday, Dec. 13**, at an unspecified time. LAP and DT have spoken to her on the phone, but she wants to do an in-person visit to better assess the state of our building and where we are in our planning for its future, in order to be able to recommend a consultant who can help us plan the next phase of building restoration.

PTV helped pay for our 2014 conditions assessment from Jan Lewandoski, and they are prepared to help us pay for an updated assessment at this time.

DT and KB took measurements of window openings in order to provide information required to order the **11 storm windows** to cover the original windows on the brick portion of the building. DT has been in regular contact with the sales rep from Allied Window in Cincinnati to complete our order. The total cost for the 11 windows with screens for north and south side windows, including shipping, is **\$6,136**. Dot will get final approval from the Select Board and submit an invoice for payment of the $\frac{1}{3}$ deposit, which is \$2,045. It is expected the windows will arrive in spring, 2023, and we expect to be able to install them ourselves.

Select Board member Stan Noga was good enough to attend in order to update us (along with Dot) on the SB discussions regarding disposition of ARPA funds, and the degree to which the SB is willing and able to support the BMH financially. There was discussion of the building's needs and our priorities for it and longer-term goals and the Select Board's role and Town Meeting's role in potentially helping us in the restoration process and in meeting the requirements for the building to be able to be more of a benefit to the community.

BMH Committee minutes 12/5/22 (continued)

The SB is unable to commit a specific dollar amount at this time, but expressed willingness to support our projects on a case-by-case basis and help us move things along more speedily.

There is particular interest on the Select Board in helping us meet ADA standards for accessibility, and helping with mold remediation and keeping bats out.

The SB has expressed the hope of being able to divert some of the proceeds from the rental of the former school to the Meetinghouse fund, since big-ticket maintenance projects on the school building have been largely taken care of.

The Committee hopes that with the next building assessment, we will have a better plan to address remaining needs and a better idea of costs for the major projects remaining, and we will continue to explore whatever fund-raising opportunities we can find or come up with.

It was decided to devote our next meeting to the **creation of a survey** to be distributed to town residents asking for their feedback about what they'd like to see happen at the Meetinghouse, how they feel about spending town tax money on it, etc.

Also to be discussed: the **creation of a separate committee**, or sub-committee, whose purpose would be planning and implementing a schedule of events to be held at the Meetinghouse, so that the current group could focus more on building maintenance & restoration and fund-raising.

Other business:

Stuart offered to "clean up" our shared drive and organize our records and documents on-line.

Dot offered to speak with Guy about changing any references to Brookline "Baptist Church Committee" to Brookline Meetinghouse Committee on the town website.

Dan purchased and put battery-operated candle lamps in the 5 front windows of the Meetinghouse, strung colored lights in the balcony visible through 2nd floor windows, and purchased and placed solar-powered spot lights to illuminate the Meetinghouse sign. Julia fashioned lovely holiday wreaths and hung them on both front doors of the Meetinghouse.

The idea of hosting holiday music or a singalong at the BMH (possibly with organ accompaniment) was shelved for this year, with hopes of planning further in advance for such an event next year.

Next meeting was scheduled for Monday, December 19, 2022 at 5:00 PM at Town Office.

Meeting adjourned 6:30 PM by unanimous consent.

Respectfully submitted,
Daniel Towler

