

BROOKLINE MEETINGHOUSE COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Date: Monday, December 19, 2022, 5:00 PM @ Brookline Town Office

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

Lee Anne called the meeting to order at 5:05 PM.

Stuart moved to accept the minutes of our last meeting Dec. 5, 2022. Dot seconded.

All were in favor.

We received word on Dec. 15 from Caitlin Corkins, Grants Coordinator for the VT Division for Historic Preservation, that we were awarded the full amount of the grant we applied for in October to help pay for a new foundation under the BMH annex. 20 grants were awarded statewide out of a total of 38 applications received. This is a great honor and a testament to the Committee's dedication to the rejuvenation of this historic building, with particular credit due to Stuart and Lee Anne, who worked together on the application.

\$15,000 of the \$30,000 total cost of this project will be covered by the grant, and Dot announced that the other \$15,000 will come from ARPA funds allotted to Brookline.

This will leave a sufficient balance in the BMH restoration fund to not only pay for the 11 new storm windows ordered this month, but will enable us to cover the cost of painting the steeple, another long-deferred project, should we decide to put that out to bid again in 2023.

No one on the BMC has heard from the Town Office any updates on donations received in response to our fund-raising letter. Lee Anne and/or Dot will speak to Guy and see if this information can be obtained.

The bulk of the meeting was devoted to constructing a survey to be distributed to town residents at or before Town Meeting in March, asking for their input on what types of activities or events they would like to see happen at the Meetinghouse. A similar survey was conducted by the town of Calais, VT to help chart a future for their historic former Town Hall. Jenna L. of the Preservation Trust suggested we use their survey as a starting point to devise our own. The questions on their survey were discussed one at a time, along with the methodology they used to rate people's responses. After much back and forth, it was decided that at least one more meeting was going to be necessary to finalize our draft, and that in the meantime, members should devote some time to thinking about what we hope to learn by this survey and what questions should and should not be included, with the goal of keeping it as succinct and user-friendly as possible to encourage maximum participation. Stuart offered to help with formatting once the content is decided upon.

Next meeting is scheduled for Monday, Jan. 9, 2023, same time, same place.

Meeting adjourned by unanimous consent at 6:42 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Daniel Towler

