

## BROOKLINE MEETINGHOUSE COMMITTEE

### FINAL MINUTES

Meeting Date: Monday, November 6, 2023, 5:00 PM @ Brookline Town Office

Members present: Lee Anne Parker, Kerry Bourne, Stuart Duke, Julia Duke, Dan Towler, Jon Ballou

Lee Anne called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM.

Minutes of our previous meeting on Oct. 17 were reviewed. LAP moved to accept, Julia seconded, all were in favor.

According to Lee Anne, we have \$34,602 in our Meetinghouse Restoration Fund.

She shared a list of BMH **restoration priorities** that she prepared at the request of the Select Board, which is preparing the town budget for 2024-25. Whether the SB is inclined to earmark money in the budget for the BMH is unknown. The budget will be discussed at their Nov. 15 meeting.

The town received two bids for the **steeple painting**, which were opened on Nov. 1, one from Momaney Painters of Dummerston and one from 802 Painting of Brattleboro. There was discussion of the relative merits of the two proposals and whether both contractors have equivalent lead paint certification. The SB is deliberating over the same questions and has not accepted either bid as yet. The BMH Committee will request to be heard from at the SB meeting on Nov. 15 with our feedback regarding the two bids.

Kerry reported that the **foundation rebuild** is proceeding on schedule. He hopes to be done within a couple of weeks. Committee members commented favorably on the progress and the appearance of the finished work.

Lee Anne reported on the costs of our last couple of years' **end-of-the-year fund-raising appeal** and the differing formats used. She has been in contact with Carolyn Hebert of Minuteman Press who supplied our last couple of fund-raising letters and obtained an estimate for printing and mailing to Brookline, Newfane, and Townshend.

After discussion, it was decided to send the mailing just to Brookline residents. The Committee has decided to use the 6 X 9" postcard format used in 2021. Dan drafted a message to go on the postcard which members accepted as written.

LAP will find out from Minuteman the cost of the printing and postage and submit it to the SB for their review at their meeting on Nov. 15.

There was discussion of the Paul Bruhn Historic Revitalization grant for 2024 which was just announced by the Preservation Trust of Vermont. The deadline for applications is Dec. 21. Although this is a source of funding that we should definitely keep our eye on for future years, it was decided that we don't have enough time and enough information, in terms of plans in place for critical upcoming projects, to submit a competitive application this year.

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The sub-committee charged with planning a December event at the BMH met prior to tonight's meeting. This group consists of Fran and Tim Carr, Julie Roach, in addition to LAP and Julia D. Julia has been in contact with Amy Cann about providing musical accompaniment for an hour-long singing event, with hot cider and cookies provided.

They are working with Amy C. to settle on a date in December that works for her. The SB will be asked to cover any expenses arising from this event.

Monday, Dec. 4 was suggested as a day to do any holiday decorating or lighting.

Steps needed to close up the BMH for the winter were discussed, including removing any plants or drinks that would freeze, rolling up carpets, etc. Jon B. offered to store the drinks.

Once the building can be accessed, members will complete these tasks.

Next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, Nov. 28, 2023 at 5:00 PM at the Town Office.

Stuart moved to adjourn at 6:45. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,  
Daniel Towler