

BROOKLINE MEETINGHOUSE COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Date: Thursday, January 4, 2024, 5:00 PM, Brookline Town Office

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

Members of the public: Bruce Mello, Brookline Select Board member

Lee Anne called the meeting to order at 5:02 PM.

The minutes of our last meeting on Dec. 11 were reviewed. KB moved to accept, LAP second, all were in favor.

The event-planning sub-committee, consisting of Lee Anne, Julia Duke, Jon Ballou, Julie Roach, and Fran and Tim Carr, met prior to the regular meeting to review the December 16 holiday sing-along and discuss other possible events at the BMH in 2024. The Dec. 16 event was well-attended (approx. 40 people) and considered to be a success and worth repeating next year, with a few tweaks.

Mr. Mello presented a letter he intends to deliver to the SB, urging the Board to honor the wishes of townspeople and help speed up the process of renovating the BMH so it can be more widely used by the town for community purposes. Bruce wants to see the remaining ARPA money (\$46K) and at least \$50K of FEMA reimbursement money to go towards restoration of the BMH. He has prepared a list of “big-ticket” repairs remaining for the Meetinghouse, with estimated costs of \$125-150K, with the cost of still other major and necessary upgrades yet unknown.

We have a list of essential renovations from the Saccoccio assessment, arranged by level of priority, totaling just over \$100K. But, his list does not include building “modernization”, or bringing the building into compliance with modern building codes, addressing energy efficiency, accessibility, etc., nor does it include cosmetic upgrades to the building interior. So, we have many working lists, none of which is entirely comprehensive.

Most of the meeting was devoted to discussion of our priorities for the building, in what order to address the remaining projects, what we can afford to do sooner rather than later given the resources at our disposal, and where to look for additional funds. This discussion has been ongoing and will continue in subsequent meetings. One of the recurring questions is which elements of the building renovation will require professional planning or guidance, such as building moisture and HVAC issues, code compliance including ADA, upgrades to plumbing or electrical systems, etc. and who to turn to for this type of assistance. Windham Regional Commission has offered planning help in the past, and their help could be sought again.

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We have received a bid for painting of the steeple on 10/30/23 from 802 Painting, LLC of Brattleboro for \$17,600. Coincidentally, we received a bid from Green Home Solutions of Acton, MA last January, also for \$17,600, to remove the mold in the BMH and hopefully prevent its recurrence. Currently, those are the only two projects for which we have reliable estimates. We are hoping to get the steeple painting done in 2024.

We have discussed soliciting more proposals for mold remediation, but as of now, GHS, which was recommended to us by the PTV, is the only one we have. We have taken no action on it to date.

Lee Anne reported that the responses to our year-end appeal have reached \$2,475. She has been writing thank you notes to the donors.

The next meeting of the BMH Committee is scheduled for 4:30 PM on Monday, January 15, 2024.

Meeting adjourned at approx. 7:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Daniel Towler