

BROOKLINE MEETINGHOUSE COMMITTEE

FINAL MINUTES

Meeting Date: Monday, February 26, 2024, 5:00 PM at Brookline Town Office

Members present: Lee Anne Parker, Dan Towler, Julia Duke, Jon Ballou (barely)

Lee Anne called the meeting to order at 5:10 PM. Julia moved to accept the minutes of our last meeting two weeks ago with one minor change. Jon seconded. All were in favor.

LAP announced that we have approx. \$27K in our building fund, which will be added to by \$15K when we receive the grant money from VDHP. There is expected to be some discussion at Town Meeting about designating some portion of the Town's remaining ARPA funds towards the BMH, and also some of the FEMA money that is coming back to the town.

BMH Committee is grateful for any support from the Select Board and Town voters but does not have an official stance on these questions.

Lee Anne gave a presentation to the Select Board at their Feb. 21 meeting about the priority list we have been working on and our goals and intentions in the coming months.

We would like to proceed with the painting of the BMH bell tower, for which we have received a satisfactory bid from 802 Painting. We would like to have a scope of work prepared and an RFP put out for the painting of the wooden addition. We would like to engage Pete Yost, the building expert recommended by Jon Saccoccio, to help us understand the moisture and mold issues in the building and recommended next steps. And, we intend to meet with Mr. Saccoccio to request an "architectural scoping study" to determine next steps necessary to bring the BMH into compliance with modern building codes. We have a meeting scheduled with Mr. Saccoccio on March 14 to begin this discussion.

We also have a visit scheduled on March 20 from Jackson Evans, the Preservation Trust of Vermont representative who is helping us with our planning and strategizing.

Discussion of possible activities/events to entertain at BMH –

Alyssa Schmidt attended the meeting to suggest the possibility of an exercise/fitness class – if someone could be found to facilitate. Suggestion was made to put an announcement on the town list-serve asking if anyone has any activities or events they would like to propose for the BMH. Julia volunteered to create this posting and field responses.

Other ideas Committee members have proposed – arts & crafts show/sale, food event of some sort, flea market/tag sale – are awaiting further discussion.

Discussion of BMH presence at the upcoming Town Meeting –

Lee Anne showed large-format photos of the foundation project that she proposes that we display. She & Julia will work on mounting them.

2/26/24 Minutes, continued

Lee Anne is in contact with Howard Cutler and his musical entourage regarding a reunion this summer for the Second Annual Town Party. The date that had been agreed upon – August 3 – happens to conflict with Grace Cottage Fair Day, which we agreed we would not want to do. LA has discussed with HC changing the party day to Sunday, August 4... with musicians having access to the BMH all weekend.

DT offered to create an updated list of possible funding sources for future projects, drawing from the “Funding Directory for Historic Preservation Projects in Vermont” created by the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation. The most recent version of this document is 21 pages and lists 33 funding sources, only a few of which would be applicable to BMH.

Next meeting was scheduled for Monday, March 25, 2024 at the Town Office.
Meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 6:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Daniel Towler