

BROOKLINE MEETINGHOUSE COMMITTEE

FINAL MINUTES

Meeting Date: Monday, April 29, 2024, 5:00 PM @ BMH

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

LAP called the meeting to order at 5:05 PM. Minutes of the meeting on March 25 were reviewed. LA moved to approve, JD seconded, all were in favor. A meeting was scheduled on April 11 but no meeting was held as a quorum was not present.

The Town has received a 15 page proposal from Jon Saccoccio for a “Feasibility Study” for the Meetinghouse. His scope of services includes designing solutions for moisture issues in the building (in conjunction with Pete Yost’s proposed investigation), accessible access, kitchen and bathroom renovations, updating lighting and electrical systems, and addressing various other building priorities identified by members of the BMH Committee. This feasibility study would take approximately 12 weeks to complete, at a cost of \$33,230. The study would include professional cost estimates for the various scopes of work recommended.

Due to the cost of this proposed study, an RFP will have to be prepared and the project put out to bid. This will delay the start of the study, and it’s unclear who will write the RFP.

Meanwhile, Maggie Foley has put together a grant application to the Windham Regional Commission which would substantially fund this feasibility study. The completed application was submitted on behalf of Brookline by Stan Noga on April 29.

The Preservation Trust of Vermont (PTV) has announced a program called the Village Trust Initiative to be offered in partnership with the VT Council on Rural Development and the VT Community Foundation. This would provide generous funding and support to a select number of small towns, creating a community trust organization to take on a transformational revitalization project in those towns. This program could offer a vehicle for the implementation of the Meetinghouse project, with enough funding to make potentially dramatic strides within a much shorter timeline than has been thought possible.

PTV is offering an information webinar on April 30 which LAP plans to participate in. Interested communities are asked to submit an intake form by May 24. These will be reviewed and a select number of applicants will be selected to submit a full application.

The consensus on the BMH Committee is that we should complete and send in the intake form. This will likely be discussed with the Select Board at their meeting on May 1.

BMH minutes 4/29/24 (continued)

The Energy Committee has been asked for help with providing internet and wi-fi capability at the BMH.

Members looked over the green algae-like growth on the lower courses of brick on the north side of the building. Materials and methods of cleaning were discussed but no plans made.

Plans are ongoing for the annual Memorial Day weekend plant sale on May 25. Julia, Lee Anne, and the Events Committee are ironing out details.

There will be a Friday morning yoga class taught by local instructor Brittany Frost offered at BMH beginning Friday, May 3. Alyssa Schmidt has been organizing, including publicity and a thorough cleaning of the meeting room in preparation for the first class. A commercial floor mop and mop bucket have been purchased from WW on the Town account, with the permission of the SB.

Two portable toilets have been reserved from the Rich Earth Institute for the summer party on August 3.

Next meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 13, 5:00 PM at the BMH.

Meeting adjourned at 6:27 PM by unanimous consent.

Respectfully submitted,
Daniel Towler