

Final Minutes of 6.17.24 Joint SB/BMHC meeting

The meeting opened at 5:05 pm. In attendance: Stuart Duke, Julia Duke, Jon Ballou, Kerry Bourne, Lee Parker, Stanley Noga, Michael DeSocio, Doug Wellman, Bruce Mello

With the assistance of a wall projector Lee Parker led the meeting outlining the roles and responsibilities of the BMH Advisory Committee as seen by its members. The Committee asked for clarification on what the Select Board sees as our role is regarding the stewardship of the BMH and how the Building Commissioner and Select Board have acted, or not, to support us.

Discussion focused on the Committee's use of the Lewendosky and Saccoccio Condition Assessment Reports as a guideline to our BMHC restoration activities. The primary concern of the Committee, and the reason for this joint meeting, is to get clarity on the value of the Advisory committee to the SB and Town, given the conflicting positions held by the Select Board. The Committee feels their work is not valued and their advice not given due merit.

Stan Noga praised the work of the Committee and its Chair for their accomplishments. The Select Board understands the importance of speaking with a united voice and acknowledges that there are times when mixed messages have been sent to the Committee. It assured the Committee that communication is an important part of the BMHC/SB partnership. It was agreed that a board liaison (D. Wellman) would help keep the SB apprised of BMH activities and create a more efficient conduit of information between the two groups. It was also acknowledged by the SB that there is great value in having such a dedicated BMH committee, that their work has important merit.

The SB agrees to meet with the Committee after August 4th Town Picnic. The BMHC will present for the Boards consideration their prioritized list identifying the first set of projects and supporting rationale.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Lee Anne Parker, Chair

The following is the audio visual presentation used during the June 17th meeting:

Purpose of this Meeting:

Clarify roles and responsibilities of the BMH Committee, Selectboard, Building Commissioner

We would like clarification on what the SB sees as our role is regarding the stewardship of the BMH as well as how we work with the SB and Building Commissioner towards that end.

What we feel is the goal of the BMHC:

- to preserve and protect the historic integrity of the Brookline Meetinghouse
- to support use of the building as a center for engagement that encourages community interaction to benefit the well-being of its citizens.

BMHC Responsibilities:

- BMHC works from a professional Conditions Assessment and from a list of priorities as defined by that assessment.
- We gather information, evaluate its value and application, make proposals and recommend action to the Selectboard
- We meet with contractors and receive estimates.
- We fundraise by hosting community events, applying for grants, annual appeals and outreach to potential private donors. (e. g. Schupp and Cutler).
- We currently cover all expenses with grants and donations without resorting to any Town tax raised funds.
- We inform the public of our activity via FPF, Listserv, FaceBook, attend workshops and events to widen our knowledge and improve our connectedness with the townspeople.
- We maintain order and cleanliness both inside and around the building.

Current situation:

The SB, BC and the BMHC are experiencing challenges in coordination and communications, leading to inefficiencies and conflicts.

Example – conflicting priority lists; duplicate and conflicting communications between the Town and vendors resulting in frustration on the part of the Vendors and the BMH committee.

We understand that the Selectboard is the ultimate authority and responsible party for the town owned buildings and property.

Desired Goal:

Establish recognized roles and responsibilities between the SB, BC and BMHC

Establish a process for these groups to work together to address the current issues with of roles and responsibilities

Discussion - What are these roles?

building commissioner

BMH lead

Select Board Chair

Contract managers

Board liaison to the BMH committee

What responsibility does the SB have to the BMHC?

How do we successfully work together?

How are we doing and what can we do better?