

New Durham Board of Selectmen Meeting  
September 13, 2017

**NEW DURHAM BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
With 1772 MEETINGHOUSE COMMITTEE  
1772 Meetinghouse, Old Bay Road  
September 13, 2017, 10:30 a.m.**

*Final Approved 09-25-17*

**Present**

Chair David Swenson  
Selectman Cecile Chase  
Selectman Rod Doherty  
Chair George Gale, 1772 Meetinghouse Committee Chair  
Cathy Allyn, 1772 Meetinghouse Committee  
Clayton Randall, 1772 Meetinghouse Committee

**Also Present:**

Scott Kinmond, Town Administrator

**Call to Order**

Chair Swenson called the meeting to order at 10:35 a.m.

Chair Gale gave an overview of maintenance and minor improvements for the site and building. He explained the projects are low cost and can be done at any time in the near future. The Board of Selectmen and Meetinghouse Committee viewed and discussed the property and building via a guided tour where each subtask on the list would be needed to be done.

**Hilltop**

The hilltop area was observed and Chair Gale stated he discussed with the highway department about having some materials put down. It was noted there is a potential garden area that could be use for a Town garden and in the past Girl Scouts did so and donated all produce to the food pantry. Chair Gale noted after the roadway is leveled out they could made it more accessible. Ms. Allyn stated at one time there were also plans designed to put in a picnic area. Chair Swenson asked for a copy of the plans to be provided.

Chair Gale distributed a copy of the committee's grant plans, charter, and assessment for review by the Board of Selectmen.

**Electrical Panel**

Meetinghouse Committee Chair Gale stated they need to replace a 30-year-old temporary electrical panel although some upgrades have been completed. He indicated that he has loaned some panel components to allow some electrical service but the full panel needs to be brought to acceptable requirements.

**Driveway**

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The driveway was reviewed, Meetinghouse Committee Chair Gale noting some gravel can be put down after pulling up the grass and the driveway is below grade so no issues with water into the roadway. It would expand the parking area.

**Power Lines**

Meetinghouse Committee Chair Gale stated the power lines on the Meetinghouse side of the road need to be moved and stated TDS and Eversource have agreed to move them. Electric service to the building could be run underground.

**Stonewall On North Side**

Need to move a portion of the stone wall next to meetinghouse to allow for additional room to work on the Meetinghouse and for future uses

**Rock Piles**

Meetinghouse Committee Chair Gale stated both piles of stones behind the Meetinghouse need to be moved but the committee does not want them to be disposed.

**Trees Behind Meetinghouse**

The trees around the building were viewed and it was noted several need to be removed as they are dead or dangerous trees to the building should they fall. Selectman Doherty suggested there is some good timber in the trees. Removal options were discussed. Town Administrator Kinmond suggested having it all cleaned out.

**Meetinghouse Cemetery**

It was noted the cemetery on the Meetinghouse grounds is in need of proper maintenance although noted the graves are not all known.

The Board of Selectmen and Meetinghouse Committee went inside the Meetinghouse to discuss the building further. Selectman Chase suggested developing a formal vision and plan for future uses to help generate support.

The Board and committee discussed upgrades to the building including bathrooms and kitchen facilities. Chair Gale stated many of the upgrades would increase the possibilities for municipal and public uses. He also explained the possibilities for heating/cooling. There was further discussion of the projects to get the property to the usable state they are expecting and RFPs will be needed to get bids and pricing for work to be done.

Both Chair Swenson and Selectman Chase asked that a full business plan be prepared that includes planned restoration and costs, use of building opportunities, and ongoing operational costs. Selectman Doherty requested the Meetinghouse Committee to prioritize the list of work presented along with a timeline.

Location	Task	Comments
Hilltop	Grade out for full use / access; use for parking; need path to Meetinghouse	DPW could pull off top soil; F. March to bid on full flattening

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Location	Task	Comments
Driveway	South Side – needs gravel North Side – pull off loam, add gravel, put back loam & seed	DPW could do work Does Town need to add this to their snow plowing locations
Electrical Panel	Replace temp panel	Gale claims he has loaned much of the current panel; Town needs to replace
Power Lines	Move poles to other side of street Bury electrical lines to Meetinghouse	Get Eversource / TDS to act on pole movement Bury lines when needed
Stone Wall North Side	Move portion of wall near Meetinghouse	DPW could do – perhaps during late fall or winter
Rock Piles	Move both piles currently behind Meetinghouse	DPW or foundation guy to do
Trees	Remove dead and dangerous trees behind Meetinghouse	Hire tree company to remove dead trees and live pines deemed dangerous to building Consider tree harvesting on full Town owned Meetinghouse land
Cemetery @ Meetinghouse	Maintenance, etc.	Since it is a Town cemetery have DPW estimate what is needed to be done and provide cost estimate to maintain Talk to Cemetery Trustees to determine participation
Door Signage	Inaccurate Info on Sign	Put in Meetinghouse operational budget to correct
Front Steps	Improve safety of entrance steps	Have foundation guy install; Town owns granite to use for these steps (Town pit)
Locks	Rekey locks	Meetinghouse Committee to do through operational budget
ADA Access	Back of building	Assure building meets required codes
Support Buildings	Bathroom / Kitchen	Do all possible to attach to building or provide access through covered / enclosed structure

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Location	Task	Comments
Other	Amphitheater / Outdoor stage	Consider opportunity as part of business plan
Business Plan	Meetinghouse	Required before any major future financial investment

**Adjourn**

**Chair Swenson made a motion to adjourn. Selectman Chase seconded the motion. Motion passed, 3-0-0.**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer Riel, Recording Secretary