

1772 MEETINGHOUSE RESTORATION COMMITTEE
MEETING

September 9, 2020 6:00 p.m.
Electronic meeting via Google Meet
Meet.google.com/vxr-hyqr-mee

Members present: Cathy Allyn, alone at 2 Old Bay Road, Robert Bickford and Robin Bickford together at 62 Main Street, Clayton Randall alone on Old Bay Road

Others present: Jon Mouradian, Heather Freeman

Call to Order: Chairperson Cathy Allyn called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion by Bob Bickford to approve the minutes of August 12, 2020, as written; second by Robin Bickford. A roll call vote was taken: Allyn – aye, Bob Bickford – aye, Robin Bickford – aye, Clayton Randall – abstain. The motion carried.

Updates:

CRF – The Committee agreed to stay on top of ensuring the grant monies are deposited into the Restoration CRF.

Membership: The Selectmen will meet on 9/14/20 and are expected to appoint Jon Mouradian to the MRC.

Clothing shed: Ms. Allyn said the representative offered a shed, with the caveat that the company is still not picking up, so donations could not be accepted.

Motion by Mr. Randall to put the shed installation on hold until donations can be accepted; second by Mr. Bickford. A roll call vote was taken: Allyn – aye, Bob Bickford – aye, Robin Bickford – aye, Randall – aye. The motion carried unanimously.

New Hampshire Charitable Foundation – Mr. Bickford said he has been working 15 hour days regarding getting school open, so he had not had the time to work on the application. He added he would do so.

Moving Forward:

Budget – The Committee discussed the 2021 budget to be presented to the BOS. Mr. Randall indicated the Town was supposed to maintain the mowing. He said he had mowed the parking field. Mr. Mouradian said he cuts the grass when it gets long. Ms. Allyn said the Town should be mowing, including the area from the building's side down to the pound and to the stonewall along the driveway. She said volunteers had worked hard to clear that area and it had been her understanding that regular mowing was to take place so that ground could be reclaimed. Ms. Bickford noted the cost of gas and wear and tear on volunteers' equipment.

Members added \$450 to the maintenance line to pay for 40' x 60' industrial roofing tarps, in case the roof starts to leak. Ms. Freeman stated that water damage is the worst thing to happen to an historical building. Mr. Randall voiced his fear that once band-aiding started, it would continue. He said the Board needed to decide if they wanted the project to go forward, and suggested the Board create a fundraising committee. Ms. Bickford said it was possible that tarps, being visible, would highlight the plight of the building. She said we could put up signs that said, Help! Ms. Freeman suggested the phrase, Save Our Heritage.

The Committee added \$200 to the advertising line to purchase banners, and reduced the grants line by \$50.

Members discussed contacting a consultant and Ms. Freeman suggested Scott Hanson.

Regarding how the Meetinghouse budget lines are included with the Boodey Farmstead lines, Ms. Freeman asked about the possible problem of co-mingling of funds. She registered surprise that, in last year's budget, the Boodey project's postage line was twice the Meetinghouse's maintenance allotment. She said the Meetinghouse is the primary building of New Durham.

Ms. Allyn said she was appreciative of all of the input.

The budget narrative to be presented to the BOS is attached to these minutes.

Adjournment:

Motion by Bob Bickford at 7:20 p.m. to adjourn; second by Robin Bickford. A roll call vote was taken: Allyn – aye, Bob Bickford – aye, Robin Bickford – aye, Randall – aye. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Cathy L. Allyn

1772 Meetinghouse 2021 Budget Narrative

The 1772 Meetinghouse Restoration Committee has profound concerns regarding the state of the building. It is in structural failure (manifested in a split beam from the forward weight of the building discovered when the foundation work was done) and the age of the roof threatens the advent of leaking and water damage to the interior.

The Committee would urge the BOS and Budget Committee to recognize the urgent need for work on the Town's most historic structure, and consider putting monies solely toward this project until at least completion of Phase II – timber frame repairs and roof replacement.

Little movement can be taken until we have a minimum of \$150,000 in the CRF, so we can apply for a matching grant. As each year ticks by, the cost of the project escalates, and that \$150,000, already probably too low, will need to be higher.

The Committee feels that a consultant with experience with a project of this scope would serve the Town best. For that reason, the Committee recommends adding a Contracted Services line. Members are currently in contact with individuals who could supply an estimate of that cost, but the figure is unavailable as of Sept. 10, 2020. The Committee will supply it as soon as it becomes known.

The following represents the budget without a Contracted Services line.

Proposed Budget: \$1,750

2020 Request: \$1,150

Electricity 01-4589-10-410 = \$450

2020 Request: \$450

This figure has been generated by Town Hall and apparently has covered the cost of power to the building in the past.

Maintenance 01-4589-10-430 = \$700

2020 Request: \$250

This is a conservative amount, considering the age and state of the building. To arrive at it, we added the cost of two 40'x 80' industrial roofing tarps to last year's amount, anticipating leakage.

Advertising 01-4589-10-551 = \$300

2020 Request: \$100

The Committee plans to hang two large banners on the building and invest in other signage, as well as professional color posters that outline the upcoming work to be displayed inside.

Grants 01-4589-10-610 = \$100

2020 Request: \$150

There are few grants we can apply for at this point of the project; the LCHIP grant is the expensive one and we are unable to pursue that now. This amount would cover, however, binders, folders, printing costs, photography costs, etc. for correspondence with consultants and contractors.

Events 01-4589-10-614 = \$100

2020 Request: \$100

The community has always turned out in large numbers to events at the Meetinghouse. As we continue to heighten awareness of the building's predicament, we will hold functions there.

Postage 01-4589-10-625 = \$100

2020 Request: \$100

Although this amount would not cover a full-out informational/fundraising mailing, it would be sufficient to cover our 2021 needs.