1772 MEETINGHOUSE RESTORATION COMMITTEE
MEETING
March 11, 2020      6:00 p.m.
New Durham Public Library

Members present: Cathy Allyn, Robert Bickford, Robin Bickford, Clayton Randall

*Call to Order*: Co-chairperson Cathy Allyn called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

*Approval of Minutes:*
**Motion by Bob Bickford to approve the minutes of February 12, 2020, as written; second by Robin Bickford. The motion carried unanimously.**

*Updates:*
Election: Article 9 failed. The Committee discussed the fact that, because of that, we are in complete limbo for another twelve months, unable to approach contractors to do the work, or to apply for grants.

Discussion ensued regarding concerns brought up by a resident before the election that monies more apt for a Capital Reserve Fund had been placed in the Boodey Farmstead's operating budget. The Committee noted that several years ago, the Meetinghouse and Boodey House lines were merged in the Town operating budget, with the result that residents are unaware of how much money goes toward what project.

Mr. Bickford said a resident directed him to a recording of the Feb. 4, 2020 Board of Selectmen's meeting, wherein Selectman David Swenson spoke about the Meetinghouse. Regarding the necessary contribution to the CRF for the roof and timber frame repairs, he apparently stated that the goalposts had changed.

Ms. Allyn said Selectman Swenson was mistaken, as the 2018 CIP request clearly stated the figure $150,000 for that phase of the project. The Committee recalled that, at the Deliberative Session, members of the Budget Committee seemed to feel that $15,000 was the figure needed in order for the MRC to apply for a matching grant, rather than $25,000.

Relative to the BOS discussing the MRC when members are not in attendance, and other situations, Ms. Bickford noted we need to launch a PR campaign, as people are reluctant to serve on the committee due to what members have to go through.

Mr. Bickford and Ms. Allyn said they would like to meet with the BOS on March 23, 2020 to get advice on how to acquire the Budget Committee's support; Ms. Allyn said she would relay that to Town Administrator Scott Kinmond.

Mr. Bickford said we needed to get the BC to understand the project. Ms. Allyn said the Town has put money into the project for years and should finish it. Mr. Bickford said a good foundation is not any good without a roof.

Grants: Mr. Bickford said he'd researched the two grants suggested by a resident, and neither is viable. The federal government put no money into the National Park

Service grant program during 2019 or 2020, and our project does not qualify for a New Hampshire Charitable Foundation grant.

Winter Carnival: Everyone had a fantastic time at the races, despite the fact that snowshoes were traded for boots due to a lack of snow. There were plenty of treats available and the feedback was excellent. Ms. Allyn said events with the Recreation Department are always a pleasure. The Committee discussed that it is important to have a port-a-potty on the grounds, since it is a public park, but that has never been budgeted for.

Events: Ms. Allyn said a resident approached her about having open mic events at the Meetinghouse, both indoor and outdoor. She said she was enthusiastic about the suggestion. Discussion ensued about the idea of an amphitheater, raised several years ago by a Committee member, and how many members of the public appreciated the concept and were in favor of moving forward with it. Ms. Allyn said she would stay in touch with the resident regarding events when the weather improves.

*Proposal:*
St. Pauly Textile – The Committee discussed the proposal. Mr. Bickford said we could stop involvement if it is not working out.

**Motion by Clayton Randall to move forward with the proposal; second by Robin Bickford. The motion carried unanimously.**

Ms. Allyn will let the representative know, and check with LCHIP.

*Adjournment:*
**Motion by Bob Bickford at 6:45 p.m. to adjourn; second by Robin Bickford. The motion carried unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,
*Cathy L. Allyn*