

Meetinghouse Restoration Committee Draft Minutes May 5, 2016

1772 Meetinghouse Restoration Committee Meeting
May 5, 2016
New Durham Public Library 6:30 p.m.

Members present: Cathy Allyn, Bob Craycraft, Patty Tollner, Clayton Randall, Jan Anthes

Others present: George Gale, Greg Anthes, Sue Randall

Call to Order: Chairperson Cathy Allyn called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

Welcome to New Members: The committee expressed pleasure regarding new members.

Reorganization of Committee: The consensus was to wait several weeks to elect officers.

Approval of Minutes: Tabled, as minutes were unavailable due to that morning's town-wide internet failure.

Assign Areas of Interest: (Assessment Grant, Fundraisers, Historical contacts) – George Gale suggested having a copy of the LCHIP application available at the library. Cathy said she would email it to all members.

George said the Historical Structures report provided a good history of the building, but it fell down in outlining details. He said we need the steps – what order to do them in and the costs. Clayton Randall said the preservation plan, the result of the assessment, would take care of that. George said we should get a detail oriented person to do the preservation plan and put numbers to it.

He said the assessment should be done with the future use of the building in mind. Patty Tollner suggested we have a “Future Home of” sign.

Jan Anthes raised the need for a plasterer, and asked if one person could do all of the things needed. George replied that Arron Sturgis had suggested cutting the ceiling plaster out and then replacing it.

He provided some background on the building, saying that the front stays stable during the seasons, but not the back. He said the braces were cut out in 1838, which started the problems we have now, because the tie beams sag so we've lost the ceiling plaster.

Stabilizing the building will include a couple of inches of lift and will not affect the wall plaster. Sue Randall said she spoke to Arron about the subject, and he said the building is kept straight while lifted and the contractor should monitor the plaster after each incremental move.

Referring to the overall work, George said it should be done once and done right. He said the preservation plan will supply us with any answers we need. He said the project will open doors to local people to do various line items. Clayton said that was how his barn was done, and mentioned several people who performed some of the work.

George said the Meetinghouse should be on the state register of historic places.

The committee members discussed their individual strengths and interests to better decide who should do what. Clayton said he was willing to do anything due to his interest in the building. He said he had deep roots, since his ancestors helped build it. He indicated he would help determine uses for the building.

Jan suggested one of the small selectmen's rooms in the front be used as an exhibit area so people can see the history. She said she would help with fundraisers and had written grants in the past.

George said grants are competitive and we are strong in that area. He said our weak point is not having a fully developed plan, but it would not be hard to nail down. He said the committee has always seen the future use of the building as a community center.

Bob Craycraft said he would fill in any gaps left when people took on different assignments and duties.

Cathy said she had made connections for three fundraisers (yoga, barbershop group concert, Bingo concessions) and historical help through Plymouth State, but had stopped all forward momentum when the project stalled last summer. She said the members who do the most need help.

George said he would work on the application, along with Cathy. He suggested grants and fundraisers, events, restoration/maintenance/ and communication be standing subjects on the agenda so we can easily see where we stand on those subjects.

Patty said she would once again provide concessions for the Bingo sales and could do another writing project with young people. She suggested writing a series or monthly column in the newspaper regarding the people in the past related to the Meetinghouse. She said it would get people looking forward to seeing what happened back then, to give insight into the past and ownership of the building. Cathy suggested the first thing could be photos of the Randall cemetery. She said she would talk to Josh Spaulding about it and help Patty with it. She recalled the Meetinghouse Minute segments filmed for Community Access TV in the past, and suggested doing something along those lines.

Cathy said Arron is unable to do the restoration project because he is booked for the next three years. George said because of that, he will not be donating the \$20,000 he had planned to toward the project.

Any Other Business: Cathy asked if anyone could help man a booth at the New Durham Charitable Fund's Community Sale on May 28, as the table would be free. She said she could spare some time and Clayton said he would already be there. Jan is unavailable and Patty said she would check to see if she could come. Cathy said the display we have is not the best. Sue suggested it would be a time to recruit people to help, so we should have specific tasks for them to do.

Action Items:

Cathy to send copies of LCHIP application to members.

All members to review assessment grant application and LCHIP application and forward brilliant ideas on to George and Cathy.

All members are to forward ideas to Cathy of what we could ask people to do for us on May 28.

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Cathy to send email to Bob regarding preservation program at Plymouth State.

Cathy to talk to Josh about regular Meetinghouse submissions.

Jan to work on getting the Meetinghouse on the state register of historic places.

Next Meeting: The committee scheduled its next meeting for May 19, 2016 at 6:30 at the library.

Adjournment: **Motion by Clayton at 7:38 p.m. to adjourn; second by Jan. The motion carried unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy L. Allyn