

1772 MEETINGHOUSE RESTORATION COMMITTEE
MEETING

Wednesday, Aug. 8, 2018 7:00 p.m.
New Durham Public Library

Members present: Chairperson George Gale, Cathy Allyn, Clayton Randall
Absent: Robert Craycraft (excused), Robert Bickford (excused), Robin Bickford (excused)

Others present: Joe Derrick

Call to Order: Chairperson George Gale called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.

Public Input: No public input.

Construction/Maintenance: Chair Gale updated the Committee on the foundation project begun by Tom Ahern of Steppingtones Masonry. He said nine concrete piers under the floor timbers have been poured and cured; normally, there would have been eight, but an extra one was installed under the timber that split. Unfortunately, the floor has become weight bearing because the upper framing has failed; that is why the floor joist split.

Ahern has installed jacking plates on the corners of the building and has dug down around almost all of the building. One hundred per cent of the foundation will be pinned to ledge, which is everywhere, making it extremely secure.

Chair Gale said about 70 per cent of the building is off of the foundation at this point. Ahern is jacking the building at the I beams under the sills and also at the corners. He dropped the front of the building an inch in order to raise the back only four inches, rather than five (the distance the building has been out of level).

Rocks will be pulled out next week. George has good pictures to post. Cathy Allyn and Clayton Randall commended him on the amount of personal time he has spent at the Meetinghouse during this project, noting that he has his own business to be running. Clayton said George has been dedicated and gone above and beyond. Cathy indicated he should be documenting the number of hours he has devoted to the project so far.

Outreach/Events: Review of Open House during Celebrate New Durham Day – Cathy said the event was phenomenal, bringing in 30 people, only two of which had been to the Meetinghouse before. After all of the clean-ups and volunteer work, the grounds look terrific. One visitor indicated she would help keep up the Early Settlers' Cemetery. Including the tour of the Old Pike House murals was a wonderful addition. She said it was great to have the floor torn up, so people could understand the damage that is being done and see for themselves how the building has failed.

She said it would drive it home that the building needs to be repaired sooner rather than later.

Chair Gale said having the music there was great. He suggested someone go to each person at Open Houses to get contact information, rather than leaving the sign-up sheet on a table. Clayton suggested having people who frequent the Facebook page sign up online. The Committee discussed setting up an informational board so anyone who visited the site could read about the background, ongoing projects, and the future of the building. Cathy suggested offering entertainment through the ages, such as a flea circus and vaudeville.

Capital Reserve Fund: Chair Gale said last year he had outlined a plan to the CIP Committee of adding \$50,000 per year so the project would be completed on its 250th birthday. A substantially smaller amount was added to the CRF. He said he met with the CIP committee last month and requested \$50,000, but has since then realized that he should have requested \$100,000 to keep the plan on track.

Cathy said the split timber is proof that the structural work needs to be done. Clayton added that the roof is leaking now.

Chair Gale said the Town Administrator informed him that our request could be rewritten to reflect the larger amount, and he will do that before the committee's next meeting.

Approval of Minutes: **Motion by Clayton Randall to approve the minutes of June 7, 2018, as written; second by Chair Gale. The motion carried unanimously.**

Adjournment: **Motion by Clayton Randall at 8:16 p.m. to adjourn; second by Cathy Allyn. The motion carried unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,
Cathy L. Allyn