

1772 MEETINGHOUSE RESTORATION COMMITTEE
MEETING

May 12, 2021 6:00 p.m.
1772 Meetinghouse Old Bay Road New Durham, NH
and
Electronic meeting via Google Meet
[Meet.google.com/vxr-hyqr-mee](https://meet.google.com/vxr-hyqr-mee)

Members present: Cathy Allyn, Bob Bickford, Robin Bickford ~~at home~~, and Clayton Randall

Others present: Ellen Phillips

Call to Order: Chairperson Cathy Allyn called the meeting to order at 6:18 p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion by Robin Bickford to approve the minutes of April 14, 2021, as written; second by Bob Bickford. The motion carried unanimously.

Appointment: Ellen Phillips, the Committee's Liaison to the Boodey Farmstead Committee regarding the fundraising consultant, said she attended a meeting with that group and the consultant. She reported that not much would be particularly helpful to the MRC. She said the consultant spoke to the BFC about acquiring large donors and prompted them to fill out a questionnaire to see how ready they would be to have a capital campaign. She provided the MRC with the same handouts. She said the BFC decided it was unprepared for a capital campaign.

She told the Committee she thought the use of "community center" when speaking of the restoration of the Meetinghouse robbed it of the idea of preserving the building as part of New Durham's heritage.

Updates:

Entrance Sign and Post: Clayton Randall reported that the volunteer who replaced the entrance sign before is once again willing to replace the missing one. Another volunteer will put up the post for it, as the current one is damaged beyond use.

New Hampshire Charitable Foundation: Ms. Allyn said she has almost completed the process of creating a profile so the Committee is able to apply for grants.

New Hampshire Preservation Alliance Conditions Assessment Report: Ms. Allyn said all of the pieces have been completed. NHPA indicated she should have a video meeting with them prior to sending in the application.

Banners: John Mouradian, held up in traffic and unable to attend, has indicated the banner is ordered.

Storywalk: Ms Allyn said the project is moving forward.

Clothing Shed: The shed is delivered and receiving donations. Mr. Randall and Mr. Mouradian have been upholding the Committee's responsibilities as hosts. Mr. Bickford suggested making copies of the key so each member will have one. The newspaper article on it ran May 6 and Ms. Allyn said she would also write a letter to the editor, since donors are leaving unwanted items.

LCHIP: Both Ms. Allyn and Mr. Bickford took the training workshop for LCHIP grants, making them eligible to write the application.

National Parks Service Historical Preservation Grants: Mr. Bickford said he'd followed up with the state coordinator, and indicated the Town needs to establish an historic district before becoming a Certified Local Government. He said the coordinator indicated willingness to attend a MRC meeting.

Selling Items: Mr. Bickford said he spoke with past Town Administrator Scott Kinmond regarding how the Committee would be able to sell fundraising items without requiring cash. He said we would need a Town account.

Moving Forward:

New Durham Day: Ms. Allyn said in addition to an Open House, she can provide an Abenaki basket display and items from the 1800s. Members wanted to post "before and after" pictures of the Meetinghouse.

Select Board: The Committee has an appointment to meet with the Select Board regarding the hole in the roof. Mr. Randall reported that a volunteer noticed the hole and, along with Mr. Randall, a contractor, and that contractor's assistant, patched it temporarily that very day. It is a six square foot section of shingles. At least one other area of the shingles looks to be in danger of imminent failure. Mr. Randall said the quote the Town received for replacement was \$8,500. The MRC once again discussed that it would be a waste of money, as the roof will have to be replaced along with the timber frame repairs. Mr. Bickford said we should buy the tarps. The Committee agreed to wait until speaking with the Select Board.

Mr. Randall said he had concerns regarding the maintenance of the building and the grounds, as so much of it seems to fall to Committee members. He has voiced the need to remove brush piled on a grave in the Early Settlers' Cemetery.

Non-public Session: Motion by Mr. Bickford to enter non-public session under RSA 91:A:II(c) at 7:32 pm; second by Mrs. Bickford. A roll call vote was taken: Cathy Allyn - aye, Bob Bickford - aye, Robin Bickford - aye, Clayton Randall - aye. The motion carried unanimously.

The Committee discussed public relations.

Motion by Mr. Bickford to enter public session at 7:40 pm; second by Ms. Bickford. A roll call vote was taken: Cathy Allyn - aye, Bob Bickford - aye, Robin Bickford - aye, Clayton Randall - aye. The motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment:

Motion by Mr. Randall at 7:41 on to adjourn; second by Ms. Bickford. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Cathy L. Allyn