

1772 MEETINGHOUSE RESTORATION COMMITTEE  
MEETING

Oct. 13, 2021 6:00 p.m.

1772 Meetinghouse 207 Old Bay Rd. New Durham, NH

Members attending: Cathy Allyn, Jon Mouradian, and Clayton Randall

Others attending: Ellen Phillips, Stefanie King (Ms. Phillips was officially appointed to the Committee on Oct. 12, 2021 by the Board of Selectmen, but had not yet signed the Oath of Office, so therefore did not participate as a member.)

*Call to Order:* Chairperson Cathy Allyn called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

*Approval of Minutes:*

The minutes of Sept. 8, 2021 were tabled.

*Agenda Review:*

The Committee discussed the Friends of the Meetinghouse first, in order to accommodate Stefanie King who was in attendance.

Friends of the Meetinghouse: Regarding forming a non-profit organization, Ellen Phillips said she had conducted research and that the group would need to form a Board of Directors of the non-profit to obtain a tax ID number. The group could then apply to get 501(c)(3) status. To meet requirements in New Hampshire, a Board of five is necessary, with a president, secretary, and three members. If a Friends group is subsequently formed, the Board of Directors cannot be members.

Ms. King said she was willing to offer support to the restoration project and Committee, as well as to communicate all efforts and information to the public. She said she has already spoken with other residents about the Meetinghouse and they have responded positively. She said she was willing to gather contact information from people who attend the Haunted Trails on Saturday, Oct. 30.

Ms. Phillips said she would be able to collect contact info on Friday, Oct. 29.

Committee members discussed other ways to obtain email addresses, if the number of mailings will need to be decreased due to budget cuts. Jon Mouradian suggested residents could leave their contact information in a box at the clothing donation shed.

Since the Committee wants to move quickly on forming the non-profit, members suggested scheduling another meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 19 at 6:00 p.m. to discuss the roles members could take on and to vote to establish the Board.

Ms. Phillips said she could email descriptions of the positions to members.

*Updates:*

New Hampshire Preservation Alliance: Chair Allyn said she has emailed Nicole Flynn but has not yet heard back.

Memorial Service: The New Durham resident who requested holding a memorial service for her daughter at the Meetinghouse has postponed the event. Members discussed that it is unclear what body would have jurisdiction over renting the building; the consensus was that the Committee would have no grounds for those decisions. Chair Allyn said the Parks and Recreation Department handles rental of Town facilities in Alton. Rentals for private events cannot happen at the Meetinghouse until the building is brought up to code.

Clothing Shed: Monies earned through September are \$848.66. The clothing company said that is a phenomenal response in just five months. Clayton Randall and Mr. Mouradian said there has been a surge of unwanted items left at the shed.

Budget: Unable to attend the meeting, Bob Bickford had sent a report of his presentation to the Board of Selectman to Chair Allyn. She said he noted the BOS cut the postage line, rationalizing that the Committee should do only emails and social media to communicate with the public and ask for donations. Chair David Swenson was of the opinion that the \$4,500 for the feasibility study should come from the CRF and not be included in the Committee's budget. Mr. Bickford was to research the original language creating the CRF to see if that would give clear direction.

Chair Allyn said the wording is vague: "...for the purpose of restoration of the meetinghouse."

Members indicated the attempt is to grow the CRF, not decrease it.

Ms. Phillips will present to the Budget Committee on Oct. 20.

#### *Moving Forward:*

Select Board: Chair Allyn suggested meeting with the Select Board regarding maintenance and the Committee Charge after the budget season. She said she requested an appointment with the Board to discuss the Certified Local Government with Brandee Laughlin, state coordinator of National Parks Service Historical Preservation Grants. The Town Administrator replied the Board had not yet decided on a date for its last meeting in November. Chair Allyn checked with Ms. Laughton, who is available on both possible dates, and relayed that information to the TA. There has been no further word on the matter.

Fundraising and Information: Mr. Mouradian brought up selling 12x6x6 monument quality granite stones, engraved with donors' names, for a walkway. Chair Allyn said she'd emailed the contact at LCHIP to see if there would be restrictions, but has not heard back.

Mr. Mouradian said he will receive pricing on notecards shortly, and he has designed the vinyl thermometer banner for the clothing shed.

Ms. Phillips brought up creating a plaque for tiered donations – gold, silver, and bronze.

Members discussed a Facebook page.

Chair Allyn suggested a container for informational fliers on a post near the stone wall, similar to the one used for the Storywalk. Another location suggested was the kiosk by the trail. Mr. Mouradian said he would look around to see the best location. Mr. Randall suggested putting the fliers at the clothing shed, also.

Chair Allyn said she would put together elements suggested for the newsletter for Ms. King; Ms. King said she intended to have a draft of it ready by Tuesday evening. Mr. Mouradian said he would send her a photograph of the Meetinghouse to use.

Specific Tasks per Member: Mr. Mouradian discussed the roles of the governing body of a non-profit. He suggested having a President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Recording Secretary, and a person who is tech-savvy.

**Motion by Mr. Mouradian to form a Board of Directors, with suggested terms of two (2) years at the next meeting; second by Mr. Randall. The motion carried unanimously.**

*Any Other Business:*

Ms. Phillips said she would like a wooden table for items on display. Mr. Mouradian said he had a large tabletop and a smaller table that could be used.

*Adjournment:*

**Motion by Mr. Mouradian at 9:11 to adjourn; second by Mr. Randall. The motion carried unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,  
*Cathy L. Allyn*