

1772 MEETINGHOUSE RESTORATION COMMITTEE
MEETING

Dec. 8, 2021 6:00 p.m.

New Durham Community Room Main St. New Durham, NH

Members attending: Cathy Allyn, Robin Bickford, Ellen Phillips, Jon Mouradian, and Clayton Randall

Absent: (excused) Robert Bickford, Heather Freeman

Call to Order: Chairperson Cathy Allyn called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion by Jon Mouradian to approve the minutes of November 10, 2021, as amended; second by Ellen Phillips. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Ellen Phillips to approve the minutes of November 27, as written; second by Jon Mouradian. The motion carried unanimously.

Updates:

Financial Report: Ms. Phillips provided the Committee with a written report of finances.

Motion by Clayton Randall to reimburse Mr. Mouradian \$830.59 for the notecards and envelopes from the non-lapsing fund; second by Ellen Phillips. The motion carried unanimously.

Holiday Fair: Ms. Phillips, Ms. Bickford, and Mr. Mouradian manned the Committee's table. Ms. Phillips said people liked the cookies and talked about the project with her. Mr. Mouradian said he met people who later came to the Meetinghouse Merry Meeting. Several packets of notecards sold and there were also cash donations.

Meetinghouse Merry Meeting – Nov.

Ms. Allyn reported Paul and Denise Pouliot, head speakers of the Cowasuck Band of the Pennacook Abenaki People, set up a table of Native American artifacts outside, along with mortars and pestles and the makings of fruit pemmigan, which was a hit with everyone. Tours, Native American stories, and cider, Indian pudding, and cookies happened inside. Ms. Allyn suggested bringing up having a land acknowledgement ceremony at the Meetinghouse to the BOS. The ceremonies are becoming more widespread and involve the acknowledgement that we are now the caretakers of land where indigenous people once lived.

NHPA Mini-grant:

The Committee received the mini-grant to conduct an online survey by preservation consultant Meghan Gross. Ms. Allyn said she had put in a request for a \$500 check to be cut that she would send to the NHPA and had already sent a digital copy of the

signed letter of agreement to the NHPA. The results will be available in early January.

Capital Reserve Fund:

Ms. Phillips reported the BOS approved a \$5,000 addition to the CRF to go on the 2022 Town Warrant. She said there is currently \$67,966.71 in there now. The Committee agreed it would be wise to attend the public hearing on the budget.

New Durham Year:

Ms. Phillips reported on the meeting with Parks and Rec regarding events to be held in 2022, as it is the Town's 260th anniversary and the Meetinghouse's 250th anniversary.

The Committee agreed to: participating in the Historical Society's program of April 14, 2022; doing something at the school in March, perhaps Revolutionary War related; sponsoring an art show on July 23; and holding a trivia contest on a Sunday in September. Other suggestions were wine/beer tasting, hayride, and food trucks. Ms. Phillips will pursue permission for a wine/beer tasting.

Gmail account:

Ms. Allyn said the mailing list has been added to the Committee's email account; and she has been sending out information on a regular basis. There are several emails she could not read, and the account will not send to any Hotmail addresses.

Walkway Info for LCHIP:

Mr. Mouradian has supplied all of the information requested by LCHIP to Ms. Allyn to send on, except for the drawing. He said he would have that within a few days. He said he envisioned it more as a reflection area or patio, which would be the least impactful to the area.

Moving Forward –

Meetinghouse Merry Meeting – Dec.

Ms. Allyn said she would tell two Christmas stories, and she and her husband would do a performance of 'Twas the Night Before Christmas. Mark D'Entremont will play the guitar and lead the caroling. Ms. Phillips will make cookies and mulled cider.

LCHIP Monitoring Report:

Mr. Mouradian conducted the site visit; he also responded to the questions. Ms. Allyn said she'd taken the required photographs, would finish up the narrative, and obtain the current Certificate of Insurance, then send in the report.

BOS:

Brandee Loughlin is set for the meeting of Dec. 20, 2021 to discuss a Certified Local Government with the Select Board.

Mr. Mouradian said the Committee should inform the BOS about its decision to seek 501(c)(3) status before applying. He said we were going to pursue that status to attract donors, but if donors can use the Town's tax ID number for tax

deductions, he suggested the Committee not move forward with applying for 501(c)(3) status.

Discussion ensued; the Committee agreed to schedule an appointment with the BOS members to ask if they want the Committee to form a 501(c)(3); review 2021; and ask how the Committee can acquire a Square account, or some means of accepting payment and donations other than cash.

Fundraising:

Mr. Mouradian said he would have the thermometer banner ready as soon as we agreed on the monetary figures. The Committee agreed to put \$160,000 at the top.

Future Newsletters:

Ms. Allyn said a newsletter should go out in the summer to reach the summer residents.

Board of Directors:

Forward movement has been halted.

Any Other Business:

Town Website:

Ms. Allyn said she had an appointment at Town Hall to learn how to update the Committee's page.

Storywalk:

Ms. Allyn said she and her husband had installed A New Durham Christmas Carol along the trail.

Incubator:

The NHPA had sent along information about a group that helped non-profits form. Mr. Mouradian said it was not necessary for the Committee at this point.

Positive Feedback:

Ms. Phillips read several comments people had written when they sent in donations and the Committee was excited about so much favorable feedback. Ms. Allyn requested copies of them to include in the Town Report and on the website page. Ms. Phillips said she was saving all of the notes.

Cost Estimates:

Mr. Mouradian read the letter he'd written to Timber Frame Preservation, and said he and Mr. Randall were going to hand deliver it. Ms. Allyn said she had mentioned the matter again to the NHPA.

Early Settlers' Cemetery:

Mr. Mouradian said the trail goes through the cemetery and he wanted to prevent that by resealing the walls so the path goes off to the side. He said he and Mr. Randall would work on it.

Adjournment:

Motion by Jon Mourdian at 8:23 p.m. to adjourn; second by Ellen Phillips. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Cathy Allyn