

BROOKLINE MEETINGHOUSE COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Date: Monday, May 8, 2023, 5:00 PM @ BMH

Members present: Lee Anne Parker, Dot Maggio, Kerry Bourne, Julia Duke, Stuart Duke, Dan Towler; members of the public: Julie Roach

The Committee welcomed Julie's attendance and participation in the meeting.

LAP called the meeting to order at 5:08 PM.

After brief review, Stuart moved to approve minutes of our last regular meeting March 13. Julia seconded; all were in favor.

Stuart has collated responses to our **survey about future use of the BMH** which was circulated at Town Meeting. We received about 55 responses which represents slightly over 10% of the total population. Almost all respondents agreed the town would benefit from an accessible gathering space for community events and private functions, with a solid majority indicating they would attend a variety of different kinds of events. Support for the use of town tax revenues going towards building renovation was more mixed. These responses, and the many interesting and thought-provoking comments attached, will be invaluable as the Committee continues to strategize to make further improvements to the building that will allow for more frequent and varied public use.

There was brief discussion of the timeline for the **expected arrival of 11 storm windows** which have been ordered for the historic windows in the brick sanctuary. These were slated to arrive in June, and we have a wedding at the building scheduled in June, in addition to the July 22 town party, so we would want them fully installed before these events, or else stored some place where they would be unobtrusive. DT will follow up with Allied Window to try to get a better sense of when we can expect them.

The project of **painting the bell tower**, which was put out to bid last year but never completed, was discussed, and the Committee agreed to recirculate the RFP, once it is reviewed and updated, in hopes of finding a contractor this year. Funds are in hand to get this done as soon as we can find a reputable contractor who can commit to the job at a reasonable price. Dot will locate the previously used RFP and send around to members.

Kerry reported that his insurance costs have risen dramatically and he needs to amend his bid for the foundation rebuild. Dot assured him there was a procedure for this without having to put the project out to bid again.

Follow-up discussion of a **plaque to hang in the foyer recognizing significant donors**. Lee Anne has contacted Lotus Printing and they have a template for such a thing, with wooden background and individual brass nameplates. Criteria for inclusion on the list was discussed. LA will follow up with more information at our next meeting.

BMH Minutes 5/8/23 (continued)

Lee Anne has been in contact with Howard **Cutler re: his plans for his July visit for the Town Party**, to which he plans to bring 12 musicians, all proficient on acoustic stringed instruments, and used to playing with each other. LA has also been in touch with Amy Cann about coming over to accompany on the organ. The subject of how to make the trip worthwhile for all these musicians was discussed and this will be added to the party planning agenda.

BMH Plant sale will be held **Saturday, May 27, 9:00 to 11:00 AM**. Lee Anne & Julia are coordinating. They will be putting up flyers and doing other promotion and outreach. Dan agreed to put up the sandwich boards a few days ahead of time, one in front of BMH and one at the Hill Road triangle. A hydrangea will be raffled at the event as an additional fund-raiser.

Volunteers will meet Friday May 26 at 5:00 to move plants and set up.

Wendy Dutton has offered to donate plants to fill our two containers for the front of the building.

Dan has contacted the UVM music professor who has begun an initiative to give a piano (or organ) recital in all 251 towns in Vermont to raise awareness about climate change. We have let him know that we have a suitable venue (BMH) – as do our Meetinghouse colleagues in Athens – whenever he can fit us into his itinerary.

It was decided to move the garden tour idea, which was brought up as a possible collaboration with Athens, to our plans for next year.

Next meeting to plan for the July Town Party will be Monday, May 15 at 5:00 @ BMH.

Jon Soccoccio of JAS Workshop in Brattleboro is scheduled to visit BMH on Wednesday, May 24 at 10:00 AM to gather information for a building assessment he has agreed to do for us, to help us plan for our next phase of building improvements. We have been awarded \$500 from Preservation Trust of Vermont to pay for half the cost of this assessment.

Next regular meeting of the BMH Committee will be Monday, June 5 at 5:00 PM.

Kerry will be out of town June 8-17.

Stuart moved to adjourn at 6:40 PM, LA second, all were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Daniel Towler

