

BROOKLINE MEETINGHOUSE COMMITTEE

DRAFT MINUTES

Meeting Date: Tuesday, August 23, 2022, 5:00 PM @ Brookline Meetinghouse

Members present: Lee Anne Parker, Dan Towler, Kerry Bourne, Dot Maggio, Stuart Duke

LAP called the meeting to order at 6:07 PM.

Minutes of Aug. 2 meeting were reviewed and approved as written.

LA moved to accept, SD second, all were in favor.

LA reported that the current balance in the BMH Restoration Fund – including \$3,000 pledged for storm windows, and including final payment for steeple work to KB and \$10,500 projected expense for steeple painting – is \$19,590.

Even if our grant application to VT Div. for Historic Preservation is successful, we will still be liable for half the expense of foundation repair, which could deplete most of our remaining funds. DM reported that the Select Board has discussed using some of the expected ARPA funds to replenish the BMH fund, so that our balance does not drop below \$15,000 – so we have enough, in theory, to cover our half of any projects for which we are awarded grant money. This is the working consensus of the SB but has not been formally approved.

Storm windows – DT has been in contact with Allied Window, who gave us a proposal for six storm windows for the 20 over 20 windows on the sides of the church in July, 2021.

They have updated their proposal to reflect current pricing, and have added the five smaller windows on the front of the church to their proposal. Their price for all 11 storm windows is \$5,337 including \$885 for shipping. There is currently a 15-17 week lag between receipt of an order and delivery. The BMH Committee was generally in favor of acting on this proposal. It will be brought up again once we have determined the cost of upcoming foundation repair.

Steeple painting – No further word on when VT Painting Co. plans to begin work.

Review of Welcome Center fund-raiser – Friday, Aug. 19 – \$1,650 was raised in donations, which will net us about \$1,500 after expenses, which will be split with the Athens Meetinghouse Committee. Athens provided excellent volunteer support in both the planning and on the day of the event, and even contacted a group of fiddlers who showed up to play during the entire 6-hour course of the event. Many hours of planning and preparation went into it, with LAP and Sherry Maher of Athens doing the lion's share of the heavy lifting.

We gave out dozens of sandwiches and hundreds of baked goodies and hot and cold drinks throughout the day, and everyone who stopped by was extremely appreciative. Thanks to the planners, we had just the right amount of food & drink supplies and just enough volunteers so that everything went very smoothly. Many people learned about our buildings, and both town groups made many important connections, including with each other, which will be a great help to historic preservation efforts in both towns going forward.

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Both antique refrigerators in the BMH were deployed, and both worked perfectly. However, the Philco one stopped working for no apparent reason. KB will check with All-Around Appliance to see if they can come out and give us an appraisal of any repairs needed.

The subject of mold removal on the walls & ceiling of the sanctuary was brought up, with the thought that this would dramatically improve the appearance of the room, which would improve the prospect of its being used for weddings, performances, and other events.

No action was taken, but this will be brought up for discussion again soon.

The DeSocios of the White Barn Farm on Grassy Brook Road have expressed interest in using the BMH as a site for weddings, and have also expressed interest in becoming more involved in BMH activities generally within the next several months.

Historic Preservation Grant application due Oct. 3 – LAP and SD will be working on putting the application together over the next month. KB has drawn up a scope of work for the foundation replacement under the wood addition. DT will type it up and submit to DM so the SB can review and publish ASAP, so we can obtain, we hope, at least 2 or 3 estimates by the time the application is due, in order to help us with our funding request.

Howard & Anne Cutler visit Sept. 8-10 – LAP has proposed a gathering at the BMH on Friday, Sept. 9, at 4:00 PM, to include the Cutlers, Howard Osgood, Lester Rink, Doug Wellman, and Roger Allbee. DM will talk to Theresa M. about using recording equipment at the event.

LAP has scheduled a visit from Lawton Floor Design of Brattleboro on Wed. Aug. 24, to see if they can give us some ideas about replacing the carpet in the front of the sanctuary. It is hoped this can be done prior to the Cutler visit.

Next meeting was scheduled for Tues. Sept. 20, 2022 at 5:00 PM.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:49 PM. DM moved, LAP second, all were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Daniel Towler