

BROOKLINE MEETINGHOUSE COMMITTEE

DRAFT MINUTES

Meeting Date: Monday, January 9, 2023, 5:00 PM @ Brookline Town Office

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

Lee Anne (LAP) called the meeting to order at 5:08 PM.

Dot moved to accept the minutes of our last meeting Dec. 19, 2022 without amendment. LAP second. All were in favor.

LAP reports that a young couple from Brookline have asked to use the BMH for their wedding ceremony on the weekend of June 18-19. They asked about the possibility of using the building for a reception in the event of inclement weather.

The Committee is in favor of allowing the ceremony, but a reception on the premises was not deemed to be appropriate or feasible for a variety of reasons.

As of Dec. 29, the total of donations accepted in the wake of our year-end fund-raising letter was \$3,010. LAP reported having heard from **Howard Cutler** that he is planning a second major donation for 2023 in the amount of **\$7,500**.

Mr. Cutler has also sent LAP a sampling of music that he has recorded with friends, and suggested that he might be able to arrange for a group of musicians, including himself, to play at the BMH this summer, and he specifically suggested the weekend of July 22-23.

The Committee decided to accept his offer and perhaps add a potluck dinner to entice residents to attend. It was decided to begin publicizing this date for a "Town Party".

Suggestion was made to reach out to **Amy Cann**, who played fiddle at the Welcome Center fund-raiser and who has expressed interest in playing at the BMH again.

Plans for this event will be fleshed out in the coming weeks.

Dot brought up that there is some additional paperwork that has to be completed to satisfy the requirements of the VDHP grant that we received. She and LAP will work on this.

We received a lengthy email on Jan. 9 from Jenna Lapachinski of the Preservation Trust of Vermont (PTV) with some ideas to consider regarding an updated building assessment and plan for our next phase of renovations. PTV has offered to help fund this assessment through their Robert Sincerbeaux Fund, as they did our last one in 2014. They offer a matching grant of up to \$500, and she described the application process for receiving this grant, which DT will follow up on. Jenna's email addressed the type of assessment and planning we need, and the possibility of bringing in Jon Saccoccio, an architect in Brattleboro whose work Stan Noga brought to our attention, and also Paula Sagerman, the historic preservation consultant with whom we have collaborated in the past.

BMH Committee Minutes 1/9/23 (continued)

Jenna also suggested that we prepare a survey for town residents to get a better feel for the needs of the community and how the BMH can fulfill some of those needs.

The Committee has been working on this for the past month and now has whittled it down to its essential components, with the goal of fitting it on two sides of one page and making it relatively quick and painless for residents to complete. Stuart will work on formatting, and will look into the best way to offer an on-line version for people to use. The plan is to make this survey available at Town Meeting in March, with copies also available at the Town Office.

Another suggestion from Jenna of PTV was to contact Green Home Solutions, a mold remediation firm based in Acton, MA, to have them assess the extent of our mold problem in the BMH and how best to address it. They were contacted and agreed to do a site visit on Jan. 10. That visit has now occurred as of this writing, with LAP, DT, and Stan Noga in attendance. They have followed up with a report and a proposal which will be discussed going forward. It appears that the BMH has a substantial mold infestation in the crawl space and attic, in addition to the obvious coating on the walls and ceiling of the sanctuary. There are substantial followup measures that would probably be necessary to inhibit future mold, even once the existing mold is removed. The Committee will have to figure out next steps, including what parts of the problem are most urgent to address, and how much we can afford (or the Town can afford) to deal with it.

The subject of a report from the BMH Committee in the Annual Town Report was discussed, with Dot explaining how this used to be done regularly but has been discontinued. She assured us that if we prepared something, it would be included, and members felt we should do that. LAP and DT will work on this.

Next meeting was scheduled for Monday, February 6, 2023, same time, same place.

Stuart moved to adjourn at 6:42 PM, all were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Daniel Towler