

BROOKLINE MEETINGHOUSE COMMITTEE

DRAFT MINUTES

Meeting Date: Tuesday, October 4, 2022, 7:00 PM @ Brookline Town Office

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

Lee Anne called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM.

Minutes of last meeting on 8/23/22 were approved as written. SD moved, DM second, all were in favor.

The **grant application to the VT Division for Historic Preservation** was submitted by the 10/3/22 deadline, asking for \$15,000 to cover half the approx. \$30,000 cost of rebuilding the foundation under the wooden annex. Lee Anne & Stuart worked diligently on the application through September, their efforts greatly appreciated.

We should hear how it was received in the next 3-4 months.

A gathering of committee members and townspeople was held on September 9 at the BMH in conjunction with a visit to Brookline by Howard Cutler and his wife Ann, Seattle residents with roots in Brookline. Howard's ancestors farmed in Brookline and were instrumental in the building of the Baptist Church, and he has become very interested in Brookline history and has become a major benefactor of the Meetinghouse. The gathering included members of the BMC as well as the Brookline Select Board, Roger and Ann Allbee, Howard Osgood, Ken and Ellie Lemire, Betty Wellman, and Renee Bergner and her daughter and son-in-law. The Bergners have been longtime owners of the former Cutler farm and gave the Cutlers a tour of the property the next day. All agreed the event was tremendously meaningful and enjoyable for all involved.

Our last open house of the season at the BMH was on Saturday, Oct. 1. Attendance was sparse, but some important new contacts were made, and Amy Cann from Putney, who was one of the musicians who entertained us at the Welcome Center fundraiser, came with her violin, but instead of playing it, demonstrated the workings of our reed organ, which was extremely informative and entertaining. We hope to have her back next year to play music for an audience at the Meetinghouse.

Members discussed other events and activities that the BMH could host in coming months and years, including Town Meeting. Dot will consult with other SB members about this possibility and any hurdles that have to be overcome. The Committee agreed to work towards the **goal of holding Town Meetings in the building**, preferably in the brick church portion if at all possible. Heat, accessibility, bathroom availability, parking, etc. would be obvious challenges, but perhaps surmountable with some planning and without undue expense.

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Discussion regarding **ordering storm windows** for the 11 restored windows in the brick sanctuary, whether to continue to look for local vendors or order from Allied Window of Cincinnati, who have given us two estimates, one last year and one recently. Members agreed to deal with Allied, since their windows are recommended by the VT Division for Historic Preservation, and since their most recent estimate seemed quite reasonable, especially in light of the fact that we have approximately half the cost in hand thanks to a donation from David Schupp, of Granby, CT and Brookline. DT moved to proceed with Allied, seconded by SD, pending approval from the Select Board. All were in favor.

DM has tried multiple times in vain to reach Glenn Bostic of Vermont Painting Co. to find out when or if he plans to complete the **painting of the steeple**, which he was contracted to do in April. There was discussion of whether to rebid the project, but it was agreed to continue to try to get a response from Mr. Bostic in hopes that he can put the job on his calendar for early next season, since it's now too late to get it done this year anyway.

LAP initiated a discussion of a **fund-raising appeal** to go out in early December. Possible content, format, printing options, cost, desired recipients, whether to have other input besides from BMC members, etc. were all discussed. SD and JD both had good ideas on this and offered to work with LAP to decide on an approach and put something together in the next month.

Other possible agenda items were deferred until future meetings. These include:

- + Availability of ARPA funds for BMH restoration
- + Preservation Trust grant for building assessment
- + "Wish list" of donation items
- + What to do with our two antique refrigerators
- + Prioritization of other building projects & possible funding sources

Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday Oct. 25, at 5:00 PM at the Town Office. Stuart moved to adjourn at 8:30 PM; all were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Daniel Towler