

BROOKLINE MEETINGHOUSE COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Date: Monday, August 7, 2023, 5:00 PM @ BMH

Members present: Lee Anne Parker, Dan Towler, Kerry Bourne, Julia Duke, Stuart Duke, Jon Ballou

Lee Anne (LAP) called the meeting to order at 5:06 PM.

Minutes of our last meeting on July 12 were reviewed and accepted as written.

LAP moved to accept, Jon seconded, all were in favor.

Discussion of the steeple painting project was added to tonight's agenda.

Members expressed sadness at Dot Maggio's stepping away from the BMH Committee, with understanding and compassion for her decision, and deep appreciation for her contributions.

Members welcomed Jon Ballou as a formal member of the Committee.

LAP informed us that the current balance in the BMH Restoration Fund is \$36,151.

Julia led a **discussion of the Town Party**, what worked well, what we could do differently.

The assumption is we will host a similar gathering next summer, though Kerry prefers we do it every other year. Suggestions were to shorten the time of the event by an hour, and to have a bit more organized parking plan to avoid conflicts with neighbors. Members agreed the music was a huge addition, and the musicians were a delight to have around and seemed to enjoy themselves as much as their listeners did. Food that was provided and the amount that people brought seemed to be sufficient and go over well, though we did have a fair amount of some things left over. Overall, it was a very successful "first annual" town party, and we will work towards making the next one even better. Julia will type up comments and suggestions.

Re: this year's **foundation rebuild** under the vestry – Kerry requested the Committee consider an addition to his proposed bid by \$3,000 to cover unforeseen costs he has incurred to complete the project. Also, he proposes altering the wording of the project description to allow for variation in the 30" depth of excavation, given that that exact depth may not be possible in some areas and may be harmful to the existing foundation of the church. He proposes to hew as closely as possible to the 30" depth but to use it as a guideline rather than a requirement. After discussion, members agreed to support Kerry's amendments, subject to Select Board approval.

SD moved to accept the two amendments, JD seconded, all were in favor.

Re: Jon Saccoccio's ongoing **conditions assessment** sponsored by PTV –

He has submitted a proposal for "Pre-Design Services" to be provided by Pete Yost, a "building science consultant", to examine moisture issues in the BMH and recommend strategies for mitigation.

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The cost of Mr. Yost's services, should we decide to accept them, would be \$2,720.

He would produce a report describing "existing conditions found during the investigation and description of potential next investigatory steps and/or potential corrective actions."

After considerable discussion, members agreed to endorse Mr. Saccoccio's view that this type of investigation is needed, that hiring Mr. Yost to assist with it is the right move, and that the cost quoted is within reason.

KB moved to approve of accepting this proposal, JB seconded, all were in favor.

Lee Anne will contact Mr. Saccoccio to discuss next steps.

DT will share this information, along with the proposed amendments to Kerry's bid, with the Select Board, so they can be informed and aware of the Committee's actions and render their own judgment on these expenses.

LAP has heard from a local painting contractor who is interested in **painting the BMH steeple**, which has been put out to bid previously but never brought to fruition. His business is 802 Painting (Brattleboro, VT) and he has prepared an estimate which is within range of previous estimates we have received for this job. LA will bring to the Select Board a suggestion to put this project out to bid again, in hopes of being able to accept a bid and complete the project next year.

LAP mentioned that we need to explore funding sources for the next phase of improvements to BMH. This will be discussed further at our next meeting.

There was discussion of whether to host another event this summer or fall, but no decision was made. This also will be discussed further at our next meeting.

Stuart will contact Dot to see if we can donate our leftover frozen burgers to the NBFR.

Next meeting was set for Tuesday, August 22 at 5:00 PM.

Stuart moved to adjourn at 6:45 PM, all were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Daniel Towler