

BROOKLINE MEETINGHOUSE COMMITTEE

DRAFT MINUTES

Meeting Date: Tuesday, February 22, 2022, 6:00 PM, Brookline Town Office

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

LAP brought the meeting to order at 6:10 PM.

DM moved to approve minutes of 2/3/22 meeting, LA second, all were in favor.

Re: RFP for steeple repair, KB felt that not enough time was allowed for bids to be submitted. DM explained that the 2-week interval between SB meetings has always been the length of time allowed, but that this policy should be revisited. KB heard from another contractor who was interested in bidding on the steeple job, but the deadline had already elapsed.

DM explained to KB that the SB were generally OK with his bid (which was the only one received in time), but that his insurance certificate was due to expire in June, 2022, and the SB wondered if he had any more information to add to his bid, such as desired payment schedule. SB had tabled acceptance of KB's bid until their March 2 meeting pending receipt of the requested materials from him.

RFP for steeple painting was sent to the *Reformer* but not printed in a timely manner, so bidding on that project will be open until March 16. KB has been in touch with contractors who may bid on that, including at least one who intends to do so.

LAP opened discussion of spring & summer activities, with the emphasis on best use of our time, and most efficient means of raising money. Discussion of what we can add to open houses to continue to spark interest in attending, and what additional events we can host. LA spoke of high-lighting Allbee family contributions, possibly those of others, obtaining an enlarged version of 1869 Beers map of Brookline which includes names of property owners, enlarging Porter Thayer photo of a group of people outside the Brookline Church, circa 1920. LA also mentioned working on a timeline of events in Brookline history.

It was suggested that Peter Seares be contacted to see if he can arrange any more musical performances this season. Seeing if a food truck could be enlisted to set up at an open house was suggested.

LA & DM participated in a Zoom call with Athens Meetinghouse Committee on Feb. 14. Their MH is undergoing exterior restoration this summer, and they are wondering if we want to join them in any fund-raising/publicity ventures, with possibly our MH as a venue.

A joint plant sale on Memorial Day weekend was mentioned, and a concert by a singing group from Saxton's River. Also, Athens is interested in joining us in hosting a fund-raising table at the VT Welcome Center on I-91 on a day this summer. LAP will get the application in by the due date of March 1 with 3 possible dates chosen, and we'll see if we get one of them.

(Continued)

BMH Minutes (continued)

DT raised the idea of a bike event between Brookline & Athens Meetinghouses to raise money and generate publicity. Athens Committee members endorsed the idea. DT will make some contacts to try to find out how to organize it.

DT also brought up creation of a BMH t-shirt and possibly postcard(s) to sell. He will continue to research both ideas and report back.

Brief discussion of LA's town party idea, also a tag sale. No decisions made.

As always, we have lots of promising ideas and not enough committee members available to implement them.

There was discussion of our account balance and how much we can get done with funds on hand and promised. If we apply for grant funding, even if successful, we wouldn't get it in time to pay for work done in 2022. Steeple repair & painting and completion of storm windows will likely leave us with only around \$5,000. DM mentioned Brookline is in line to receive significant ARPA funds, which may or may not be applicable to BMH restoration.

KB feels we should get done as much as possible this year even if it depletes our balance, and focus on replenishing the balance for remaining projects, especially since we're a couple of years behind where we hoped to be thanks to Covid.

DM asked if current members wished to be reappointed to the BMH Committee, and all present did. KB was asked to join Cynthia Nau & Dot on the Round Schoolhouse Committee, and he accepted the invitation.

Next meeting scheduled for March 17, same time, same place.

KB moved to adjourn 7:45, DM second, all were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Daniel Towler