

## **BROOKLINE MEETINGHOUSE COMMITTEE**

### **MEETING MINUTES**

MEETING DATE: March 12, 2020 @ Brookline Town Office

Members present: Lee Anne Parker, Dan Towler, Kerry Bourne, Mark Bills

Lee Anne brought the meeting to order at 6:15 PM

It was noted that the Committee needs to have another key to the town office, as Dot and Mark have the only keys, and if neither shows up, we can't get into the building to meet.

LAP will ask the Selectboard for permission to have another key.

Stan Noga has indicated that he has declined another term on the BMC -- so we are back down to five members at present.

Lee Anne moved to accept minutes of Feb. 13 as written, Mark seconded, so voted.

Lee Anne will contact Sara W. as to current balance in Meetinghouse Fund, but it is thought to be about \$29,000.

Discussion of grants to apply for & projects to focus on in 2020:

1. Windham Foundation (based in Grafton) awards \$65,000 in grants on a quarterly basis, including for historic preservation projects; BMC received \$2,500 from them in 2016 towards window restoration. Deadline for next round is May 13, 2020.

LA has begun the application & reviewed with members what she has done so far.

It was decided to apply for an amount equal to the lowest of the 3 bids we received for exterior painting & rehab of the steeple, plus an amount to cover the cost of flashing work that needs to be done where the steeple structure meets the slate roof -- which will probably be about \$16,000 total. KB will reach out to at least one local roofing contractor and determine approx. cost of the flashing portion of the project. KB may be interested in doing this work himself if it is allowed. Selectboard will be consulted.

The Committee voted to proceed with this application, hoping to make the May 13 deadline. LAP made a motion, MB seconded, voted unanimously.

2. Windham Regional Commission municipal planning grant:  
Information available in July, application deadline approx. October 1, 2020.  
Whether or not to apply for this grant, and what portions of building renovation may benefit from having professional plans, will be discussed at subsequent meetings.  
LA suggested we have a member of the Brookline Planning Commission assist us in this effort, and DT suggested Paula Sagerman, historic preservation consultant in Brattleboro, may be able to offer guidance as well. He will be in touch with her about attending a BMC meeting, possibly in May or June.

3. Vermont Division for Historic Preservation (which partially funded the cost of belfry roof repair and balustrade & pinnacle repair in 2017) offers a 50:50 matching grant with a deadline of October 1, 2020. This could be applied for this year to help us rebuild the foundation under the wood annex -- the last major structural repair from Jan Lewandowski's list that has yet to be done. We would have to prepare a scope of work and solicit bids this spring & summer.
4. Vermont Arts Council Cultural Facilities grant, which funds improvements to building interiors to "enhance their capacity to provide cultural activities for the public" is also a 50:50 matching grant with a deadline of May 1, 2020. We will not be applying for this grant in this calendar year, but will quite possibly be ready to do so next year, to help fund renovations to the MH, particularly the annex, to make it more suitable to host year-round activities.

#### Fund-raising:

Schedule of open houses to begin in May -- publicity, possible activities to offer, and member responsibilities, will be discussed at our next meeting. LA suggested bringing DT's ping pong table over and setting it up. LA also recommended we purchase an "OPEN" flag to hang outside when we are having events. Both suggestions were accepted.

It was agreed that hosting a table at the VT Welcome Center this year may not be appropriate or sensible due to coronavirus fears, but LA will submit the application anyway to reserve a spot just in case we decide to do it.

Having a table outside the River Bend Market for a day to dispense information and raise money was brought up and will be discussed further at subsequent meetings.

#### Publicity:

LA and DT have distributed most of the remaining brochures of the 500 we had printed to businesses in Newfane & Townshend where they may be seen and picked up.

LA will get a price to print 500.

#### Other business:

Mark brought up the idea of purchasing a Rinnai propane wall heater for the meeting room in the addition, in order to extend the months that part of the building could be used for events. After discussion, members agreed this is worth researching further & possibly pursuing sooner rather than later. MB will reach out to Perkins & get back to us with cost.

Also discussed & recommended -- researching cost of replacement kitchen appliances.

DT has been going through & organizing archives of Ladies' Benevolent Society, Historic Brookline Church Preservation Initiative, and Meetinghouse Committee that have been stored in the vault in the Town Office.

LA moved to adjourn 7:53 PM, MB seconded, all in favor.

Next meeting set for 6:00 PM April 2, 2020 at Town Office.

Respectfully submitted, Dan Towler

