

BROOKLINE MEETINGHOUSE COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Date: Wednesday, July 12, 2023, 5:00 PM @ BMH

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

Members of the public: Jon Ballou, Vanessa Ballou, Julie Roach

Lee Anne brought the meeting to order at 5:12 PM.

SD moved to approve minutes of June 5 meeting, LA second, all were in favor.

DM has produced a notice that will be mailed out with the tax bills on July 15 which includes mention of the Town Party at the BMH on July 22.

DM reviewed with the members the Town's policy on fund-raising.

LAP had a conversation with David Brown, a local realtor, who shared examples of his grain painting handiwork. He has offered to paint the new wood covering the supports that go from the ground floor in the foyer up through the balcony. He would only charge for materials. Members were supportive. LAP will engage him on particulars.

An email was received from Jon Saccoccio saying he would be able to work on our building assessment beginning in August. He has spoken with a consultant who has a theory about the mold on the ceiling in the sanctuary which was discussed briefly. DT will get back to him.

LAP reported that Jean Allbee wants to borrow six of our banquet tables for an event. LAP will facilitate and ask for a donation to the BMH. A form for future transactions of this type was discussed and will be worked up.

LAP reported on the status of the agreement with VT Division for Historic Preservation to fund half of the foundation project this summer (or fall). All paperwork seems to be in order.

DT reported he has received one bronze National Register plaque from Erie Landmark Co. with the hardware for mounting. He hopes to get it up on the BMH in time for the party. The other plaque for the Round Schoolhouse should be arriving shortly.

LAP reported on a design chosen for the "Donor Appreciation" plaque for the foyer. We hope to have that produced soon also.

DT reported that the agreement with All-Around Appliance to provide a "loaner" refrigerator to suffice until the one we ordered arrives has broken down. Jesse at AAA has offered to return the check for \$1,750 to the town. Dot moved, with LAP seconding, that we cancel our order for the refrigerator from AAA.

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DT has contacted Cocoplum Appliance in Brattleboro, who has a floor model GE refrigerator of similar size and price that they could deliver to us next week. SD moved, with DM seconding, that we purchase this refrigerator from Cocoplum, as long as the price does not exceed the amount already approved for the refrigerator purchase. DT will contact Cocoplum to arrange and see if they can deliver prior to receiving payment.

The remainder of the meeting was devoted to **planning for the Town Party on July 22.**

All categories on Julia's spreadsheet of tasks were reviewed, along with a separate list of "Tasks and Volunteers" These lists will be kept up to date and should be consulted to make sure all responsibilities are adequately covered.

The appropriate amounts of various food items to purchase was discussed, as well as where to store it if we don't have a refrigerator/freezer in the building right away. The Dukes plan to do the bulk of the shopping this week and will be away next week until Thursday.

It seems that enough members have freezer capacity in their homes that we should be OK for short-term food storage. Ice cream will be purchased at the end of next week, just prior to the party.

Re: publicity – announcements have gone out via Front Porch Forum and the town list-serve.

LAP will have Lotus make up some 18 X 24" signs to put around town along the roadsides.

Committee agreed to meet Friday, July 21 at 2:00 PM to set up, move tables and chairs, transport grills, set up tents, etc. DT will vacuum prior to the day of the party.

A "welcome table" was suggested to greet people as they arrive and offer nametags (Julie R. will provide). Dot will supervise placement of signs for parking and poison ivy. DT has arranged to pick up recycling and composting containers from WSWMD and to coordinate collection of recyclables and redeemables. Porta-potty will arrive from Rich Earth Institute on Friday, July 21.

LAP has been in contact with Howard C. and his band of musicians and will continue to be the liaison with them concerning lodging and parking for their vehicles.

Coolers and ice for drinks have been arranged.

The logistics of conducting a raffle for the bench Gary Lavorgna has lovingly constructed and generously donated was discussed, with some concern that volunteers will already be over-committed to other responsibilities. Possible solution is to bring attention to the bench and the raffle at the "welcome table" and sell tickets & collect money there.

Stan Noga has donated a \$200 gift certificate to Stratton for the BMH Committee to use to raise funds for BMH restoration. No decision was made as yet how to use the gift certificate.

It was agreed that all hands will be available to help clean up and put things away after the conclusion of the day's festivities.

Next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for Monday, August 7, 5:00 PM @ BMH.

SD moved to adjourn at 7:32 PM, DM second, all were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Daniel Towler

