

BROOKLINE MEETINGHOUSE COMMITTEE

DRAFT MINUTES

Meeting Date: August 2, 2022, 5:00 PM, BMH

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

LAP called the meeting to order @ 5:15 PM.

Stuart and Julia Duke were welcomed as new members of the BMH Committee.

Minutes of the previous BMH Committee meeting on July 14 were reviewed.

LAP moved to accept without revision, KB second, all were in favor.

Dot Maggio has been in contact with VT Painting Co. who were supposed to have started painting the steeple last week, but have been held up trying to procure a proper lift.

We expect they will be starting any day now.

The 50% deposit we had paid for storm windows from Continental Screen & Glass was returned to the town. Next steps were discussed. DT reviewed the estimate we had received from Allied Window in Cincinnati in July, 2021. He will get an updated estimate from them for 6 storm windows for the 20-over-20 windows on each side of the sanctuary.

Historic Preservation Grant Manual and the Grant Application have been received from the State of VT Agency of Commerce & Community Development, Division for Historic Preservation for the 2023 grant cycle. Deadline for applications is Oct. 3, 2022.

LAP will begin work on the application, with help from others on the committee. We will borrow liberally from the narrative material in our National Register nomination application, and we hope to highlight the increased level of community involvement in the Meetinghouse since our last grant application.

LAP has been in contact with Jenna Lapachinski, Field Service representative with Preservation Trust of Vermont, about applying for one of their Robt. Sincerbeaux Fund grants for a "conditions assessment" of BMH, which we have not had done since 2014.

A site visit from the field rep is a prerequisite to initiate the application. The fund awards \$500 for an assessment and assigns someone from their list of consultants to do it. The applicant pays half the cost, or \$250. This is expected to help us with future grant applications.

LAP has been in contact with Howard Cutler about his visit on Sept. 8-10, and has heard back from Roger Allbee, who hopes to be able to recruit a few other long-time Brookline residents to meet Mr. Cutler and his wife and share some local history. BMH is hoping to host this meeting on Sept. 8 or 9 depending on everyone's availability.

DT has contacted the Bergners, present owners of the old Cutler farm, hoping they can be available during Mr. Cutler's visit to meet him and show him around the property.

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Vermont Welcome Center fund-raising event on Aug. 19 was briefly discussed. We will be meeting again on Aug. 10 with representatives from the Athens Meetinghouse Committee to make last-minute plans for who is providing what, staffing, etc. It was decided that the refrigerators at BMH can be used to store cold drinks, etc. leading up to the event.

LAP, Dot, Barbara Bourne, and Sherry Maher of Athens are coordinating food preparation and donations of food for the event, which will run from 9:00 AM until 3:00 PM.

LAP was contacted by Mike DeSocio of the White Barn Farm on Grassy Brook Road about the possibility of using the BMH as a site for weddings. He and his wife are developing their place as a wedding venue and wanted to explore the possibility of using the Meetinghouse for just the wedding ceremony. LAP will discuss feasibility with the Select Board and possibly show the DeSocios the inside of the building later this week.

DT picked up copies from Lotus Printing in Brattleboro of the J. W. Beers map of Brookline from 1869, which he had loaned for the purpose. It was hoped they would do an enlargement big enough to easily read the names of property owners and other details on the map. It was decided the copies made were not what we wanted and we will ask for them to be redone.

LAP posted on Front Porch Forum about our need for a supply of Guilford slate for the BMH roof. Also, David Parker generously donated his time and materials to replace one of the three stair treads leading into the building, which had become dangerously rotten.

Next meeting was scheduled for 5:00 PM on Tuesday, Aug. 23.

KB moved to adjourn @ 6:45 PM, DT second, all were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Daniel Towler