

DTHRC Meeting Minutes, April 28, 2021

Phone Conference

Meeting began at 7:05 with the following members present: Margaret Watkins, Don Larsen, Enid Larsen, John Stevens, Dave Nault, Janet Casey, Sue Bracy

The minutes from the March 24th meeting were approved after adding Dave Nault, Beth Boucher and Curt McDermott to the attendance list—as a correction. (Dave Nault approved the amendment, Don Larsen seconded it).

Status of Dennis Mires' work: Dave Nault said that Dennis has started the specs on the project, but since Jeff Trexler is booked until September/October, we could wait until then for the specs from Dennis. Since Jeff knows the project very well, and has kindly said he would ask for no fees for his services, the plan will be to put the bid out in November/December so we should be ready for public meetings by the end of the year. The costs of lumber materials are so inflated now (due to Covid) that waiting might be a good plan. The committee agreed.

Dave Nault said that the repair job on the front steps is still in limbo. It will be done in late 2021 or early 2022. The steps will need to be demolished and repoured.

Outreach Activities:

- a. Interviews: Enid Larsen reported that the last posting was the Mullens on the Facebook Community Page. The plan will be Ken Koerber in May, Shelley Westenberg in June, Deb Foster in July with a need to find possible interviewees for August through December.

Curt McDermott is putting videos on the webpage.
Enid Larsen is putting blogs on the Facebook Community page.

- b. Photo Collection: Don Larsen will get some photos from Joyce Ray via Margaret Watkins. Many photos have been put on FB along with Enid's blogs.

Dave Nault mentioned that the town is getting a new Town Website, that maybe these pictures could be used on the new website. Don Larsen will check this out.

- c. Facebook: There has been good conversation regarding the Town Hall on the town community page.
- d. Website: Curt McDermott is working on this. Enid Larsen suggested that Karen Cusano might be a good source to help set up a PayPal account for fundraising on the website.
- e. Scavenger Hunt: Margaret Watkins explained the possibility of a one-page series of questions regarding the Town Hall to help promote more awareness. These questions could be handed out to grade school children—handed out at DES, town offices and the library. Margaret will continue with this notion and check with Shelley Westenberg to consider posting in the school newsletter.
- f. Frequently Asked Questions: The committee spent time considering possible questions that the community might ask...that the committee needs to be alert to and have strategic answers. Possible questions follow:

Who is allowed to use the Town Hall space? Dave Nault cautioned the committee about who should be allowed to use it, especially the first couple years. He believed that the focus should be “intown” use at this time, to hold off a couple years before it gets opened up to non-town events. The Selectmen would be in charge of the building. A thought might be that a small committee could take on the scheduling—or perhaps town officials could take that on.

With regards to the first question mentioned above, the committee members are asked to list POTENTIAL USES for the second floor and the committee will review and prioritize the list. To have the list composed before the next meeting, members are asked to submit their lists to Sue Bracy via email at marysuebracy@gmail.com prior to May 26.

How much is the cost of the restoration? The committee has been trimming down the costs of this project from the original proposal. At this time, it is roughly HALF the cost of the original proposal...about \$675,000, which includes a buffer for variable lumber costs.

How can a 34' by 15' building be so costly? (A lavish house could cost this much) Dave Nault replied that the costs of building this addition cannot be compared to the costs of a house. There are many technical items that are included in this addition, that are not in a home.

Can volunteers help with the building? Dave Nault responded that it would be difficult to have volunteers working in the building process. Contractors and subcontractors are responsible for their work, making it difficult to have workers there, not known to them. There will be opportunity for volunteers to do work in the main room later.

Will there be a conflict with library hours regarding usage of the second floor and NOISE? There will definitely need to be some coordination between the library hours and the second floor use.

Other Business:

Looking forward to having Cindy Pinard, great grand-daughter of the Town Hall's architect, joining the committee.

Don and Enid Larsen (and others who might join) are going to brainstorm more fundraising ideas. Don suggested a Talent Show this summer held in a tent on the common. There is a possibility of an Arts on the Common in 2022.

Next meeting MAY 26 at 7 p.m. Possibly in person at the Selectmen's Office with an option of Zoom.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30. Respectfully submitted, Sue Bracy

