

## **Town Hall Preservation Committee**

February 16, 2022

Committee members present: Nicole Briand (Town Office), Paul Baines, Brad Foley, Sarah Stapler, Betsy Steen, Brett Thompson, Rachelle Tome, Absent: David Grogan

The Committee was called to order at 4:31 pm. Minutes from 1/19/22 were reviewed. Motion to accept (Paul/Brad) Unanimously passed.

### **Updates from Committee members**

A. Survey-There have been around 30 responses to the survey. Nicole Briand provided a document listing response to questions and priority ratings. Priority was designated by a score of 3. It was noted that 14 of the responders indicating had actually used the Town Hall for an event. The committee recommended continuing to keep the survey available until mid-March, with a note on the Bowdoinham Friends and Family Facebook page and in the Bowdoinham Historical Society (BHS) Newsletter. Final result would be available for our next meeting.

The survey asks what assistance responders can offer to the project.

Engaged volunteers to help with the work has been suggested frequently. Paul Baines raised questions about liability for volunteers working on Town Hall repairs. Nicole is going to look into this

B. Paul Baines- Paul provided diagrams with repair options for the trusses. He described how each model might be used. It was suggested that the sketches be given to an engineer, along with other necessary information, to gather feedback on whether proposed repairs will work.

C. Betsy Steen- Betsy indicated that she had not been able to connect with Frank Connors regarding bat guano. She also reiterated that the BHS is raising funds to assist Town Hall repair efforts. There was discussion related to State or National eligibility for the Town Hall's designation as an historical building and how this might impact grant and funding possibilities. Betsy shared that BHS has received \$2000. from Midcoast Charitable Foundation of Maine. This will be earmarked for the Town Hall. There should also be information coming by February 22<sup>nd</sup> regarding the Maine Preservation Grant indicating if we're eligible. The grant may provide 1:1 matching for a major project. Paul suggested that an estimate of costs to repair the roof could be included in grant applications.

D. Brett Thompson- Work on the thermometers is still in progress.

E. Interior repairs- Brett noted the holes in the roof and suggested they be a priority in order to prevent further deterioration. Nicole indicated that she'll contact Public Works to provide a temporary patch.

F. Funding- Betsy indicated that the Town Hall project received \$914 in donations in 2021. BHS will match. \$2000 was received from Midcoast Charitable Foundation of Maine. Sarah Stapler has created a small model of the Town Hall to collect which will be set at Merrymeeting Hall (MMH) during the Ice & Smelt Festival to collect donations. MMH will be featuring historical information about the Town Hall and the Gray Estate, which was recently destroyed by fire. Bowdoinham quilts will also be on display.

### **Next steps**

Paul suggested that remote control cars equipped with cameras could be deployed to see underneath the Town Hall.

Betsy and Brett agreed to contact Copp regarding options for the foundation.

Motion to adjourn (Sarah/Rachelle) Meeting was adjourned at 5:21pm.

### **Actions**

Nicole- Survey results and possible estimates for work

Paul- Obtain feedback on proposed repairs for trusses

Betsy- Contact Frank Connors (bat guano)

Brett- Finish funding thermometers

Betsy/ Brett-Contact Tom Deforest (Copp foundation work)

### **Agenda Items for Next Meetings**

- Survey update
- Status updates
- Possible estimates
- Donation/ funding updates

**Next meeting: Wednesday, 3/16 at 4:30 PM (Venue TBD).** Let Nicole know your preference related to meeting in person or via Zoom. The public is welcome.