

Town Hall Preservation Committee-Revised

February 28, 2023

Committee members present: Paul Baines, Brad Foley, Sarah Stapler, Betsy Steen, Rachelle Tome, Nicole Briand Community members and guests present: Kate Cutco, Rebecca Conley

The Committee was called to order at 4:33 pm by Chairman Paul Baines. Minutes from January 31, 2023, were reviewed. Adjustment to include Paul Baines as attending. Motion to accept as amended presented from Paul B., seconded by Sarah S.; Passed- unanimously.

Item 1: Town Hall Video Project

Discussion focused on a possible video project presented by Nicole, Kate Cutco and Rebecca Conley, sponsored by the American Library Association. Funds need to be committed by March 31. Up to \$2000 may be available to support this project. Rebecca suggested a format that included 3 mini videos, each centering on a specific topic. Topics suggested include a) historical aspect and use, b) initial construction and renovation, and c) people behind the project. One thought was that this could be posted on YouTube. Paul noted that the video could create an archival piece that might help generate interest in future maintenance and upkeep, along with recognition of the Town Hall as a unique aspect of our town. Brad suggested the responses to last year's questionnaire be incorporated into the video. Rebecca suggested a pre-production meeting. Paul and others would work with Rebecca and Kate to determine the details.

Item 2: Subcommittees

- A. Finances: Brad proposed looking at grants for local projects. Some may need matching funds to be eligible. Betsy volunteered to lead the effort with grants. Nicole mentioned the Belvedere Grant, which would need a scope of work for the application. Members were encouraged to research what grants might be available.
- B. Volunteers: The committee discussed involvement of others outside the committee for short term commitments or special projects. This could include grant writing. Possible new committee members were also discussed. Suggestions for both included Doug Tourte Lotte, Gracia Woodward and Kate Cutko. Nicole reviewed the process for those interested in committee involvement.
- C. Building: Paul noted the importance of recording labor donated by volunteers. This could provide in-kind labor data for grants.
- D. A schedule for work group meetings was determined:
 - a. Building: 1st & 3rd Tuesday of the month, 4:30-5:30 pm, Graduate room.
 - b. Finance: 2nd Tuesday of the month, 4:30-5:30 pm, Merrymeeting Hall.

Item 3: Other Business

- A. The report from Preservation Timber Framing will, hopefully, be ready for the March meeting.
- B. Sarah shared that the Bowdoinham Historical Society purchased a journal of the history of the Town Hall.

Motion to adjourn by Paul, second from Sarah S., approved unanimously at 5:32 pm

Next meeting: Tuesday, 3/28/23 at 4:30 PM in the Graduate Room. The public is welcome.