

Town Hall Preservation Committee

March 28, 2023

Committee members present: Paul Baines, Brad Foley, Sarah Stapler, Betsy Steen, Rachelle Tome, Nicole Briand

The Committee was called to order at 4:31 pm by Chairman Paul Baines. Minutes from February 28, 2023 were reviewed. Corrections requested were to adjust work group meeting times and to change the meeting day to Tuesday. Motion to accept as amended presented from Sarah S., seconded by Rachelle T.; Passed- unanimously.

Work group updates:

- A)** Building-Community members P.J. O'Hanlon, Mark Favreau and Doug Tourtelotte were suggested as potential members for the work group. Paul did meet with Mark, who had questions about the floor plan for construction to outline what will be in the facility. Paul suggested that the construction work group meet at the Town Hall to determine plans for space. Some ideas include the stage area, small kitchenette, stage storage. Lighting would be part of a later discussion. Updates will be provided at the next Committee meeting.

Sarah raised questions about the usability of the front door (facing the road). It was explained that the door was needed to serve as a building exit. The entry to the belfry also needs to be revamped. Non-negotiable areas for change include the window, current bathroom entry area and the front door exit. Paul indicated that the current floor structure needs to be removed and a determination of how to address the foundation must be determined. Paul suggested that the simplest solution would be to pour a new one. Veneer could be placed on the outside to replicate the current appearance. Nicole recommended we wait for funding before beginning the process of tearing apart the floor.

- B)** Fundraising- Sarah is exploring fund raising possibilities. Some look more promising than others. Nicole indicated that some of the Town Hall's designations make it eligible for some grants. Members are encouraged to continue gathering information. The finance will group will explore applying for the Belvedere grant, due in June.

Sarah is working with a publishing program to design and develop a pamphlet that could share a quick overview of the buildings. It was suggested that the pamphlet include information on the architectural significance, goals of the project and ways to provide support. Betsy suggested that font size also be considered, to ensure ease in reading.

Other business:

- A)** Rebecca and Kate have developed a budget for the video project. They are currently exploring making one large video which could be divided into 3 smaller videos.
- B)** Committee members viewed a large wooden model of the Town Hall created by Paul. It was suggested that the model could travel from place to place as a visual for fund raisers. The group revisited the Circa plaques that were created as a fundraiser. Betsy was opposed to

seeing “circa” on buildings with established dates. The group agreed to have both options available.

- C) Paul offered to help with describing the architectural landscape of Bowdoinham, citing Durham as an example. He shared the history of churches being built and the impact of the separation between church and state. The Town Hall, as a church, hosted 3 denominations: Universalist, Baptist and Methodist.

Motion to adjourn by Brad F., second from Sarah S., approved unanimously at 5:31 pm

Next meeting: Tuesday, 4/25/23 at 4:30 PM in the Graduate Room. The public is welcome.