

## **Town Hall Preservation Committee**

May 8, 2023, Emergency Meeting

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

The Committee was called to order by Chairman Paul Baines at 4:30 pm.

Chairman Baines shared concerns for the Town Hall structure which resulted from the report developed by Preservation Timber Framing. Recent severe weather also created immediate safety concerns and Town Manager Nicole Briand has closed the Town Hall. The direct impact is that the annual Library Plant Sale will be relocated to the waterfront and June elections will now be held at the Bowdoinham Community School.

Current fund-raising efforts are not able to keep pace with the time sensitive need for critical repairs to the foundation and roof. Paul B. proposed that the committee send a request to the Selectboard, who are meeting tomorrow May 9<sup>th</sup>, asking that a bond for \$750,000. be added to the upcoming town warrant. This amount will allow critical areas to be addressed immediately in order to protect the integrity of the building. The Town Hall Committee would still continue fundraising for additional projects and exploring ways to create ongoing and lasting support for the building.

The group did acknowledge that if the bond were added to the warrant and failed to pass, the Committee would need to consider next steps regarding the future and preservation of the Town Hall. Those present worked together to create a request which would be presented to the Selectboard at tomorrow's meeting on May 9<sup>th</sup>. A motion was made by Betsy S to accept the proposed wording of the request, seconded by Sarah S. It was passed unanimously. Paul B. would present the request at the meeting and would provide necessary background information.

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

**Next regular meeting: Tuesday, 5/30/23 at 4:30 PM in the Graduate Room.** The public is welcome.