

Town Hall Preservation Committee

October 3, 2023

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

Community member: Wendy Cunningham

The Committee was called to order at 4:34 pm.

Approval of minutes: June 27th- Motion to accept from Brad F., seconded by Betsy S.; Passed-unanimously; August 22- Motion to accept from Brad F., seconded by Betsy S.; Passed-unanimously.

Election of committee chair tabled.

Next Steps:

After discussion, it was agreed that this section of the agenda would move to later in the meeting, following other business.

Subcommittee updates:

It was determined that subcommittees were not needed at this time and would be on hold until needed in the future.

Other business:

- a) Celebrate: A number of people stopped by the Town Hall table looking for more information or to share an interest in the project. Paul Baines provided repair details, using the model of the building. There were 34 items donated to the Silent Auction. Sales earned \$1662. Betsy indicated that some donations had been left at Merrymeeting Hall. She would provide amounts at the next meeting, along with information about the winner of the donated Afghan and funds earned. She shared a story about the origins of the project, which was a combined effort from Peggy Muir and Joanne Savoie. Rachelle agreed to write an article for the next newsletter, to share this touching story of friends helping friends.
- b) RFP: Wendy Cunningham, who authored a draft RFP, outlined key aspects and components of the documents for committee members. There was some discussion regarding how bidders' questions would be answered, with the ultimate goal being that all procedures ensure integrity. It was requested that the term "RFI" (Request for Information) be added under the contact section. Questions asked and answered will be posted on the website. Betsy and Brad suggested information about bonding be added to the questionnaire, perhaps in number 3. Question number 4 should include "current" references.

The committee proceeded to discuss evaluation of the submissions. Time would be allotted at the next meeting to create a scoring method. It was suggested that a process similar to that used for sidewalks could be utilized. With the hope of having proposals by the 1st of the year, Nicole indicated she would present the draft RFP to the Selectboard on October 10th.

- c) Peter Feeney: Mr. Feeney had suggested that a second opinion be obtained with the potential of other options for addressing the Town Hall's needs being suggested. Manny Pupo and Ken Vorhees had agreed to perform a walkthrough for \$450. Several committee members requested something in writing.
- d) Maine Preservation: Rachelle shared an update, noting that the Town Hall had been designated as one of Maine's Most Endangered Historic Places for 2023. A formal announcement will be coming in mid-October.

Next steps:

- a) Impact of the Maine Preservation announcement
- b) Work on scoring for RFP
- c) Update funding and donations
- d) Future meetings:
 - a. Move to 10/30 in lieu of Halloween on 10/31
 - b. November 28th
 - c. Move December's meeting to January 9th to address RFPs.
 - d. January 30th return to regular schedule

The group agreed to adjourn at 5:53 pm

Next regular meeting: Monday, 10/30/23 at 4:30 PM in the Graduate Room. The public is welcome.