

Town Hall Preservation Committee

Meeting minutes

December 15, 2021

Committee members present: Nicole Briand (Town Office), Betsy Steen, Sarah Stapler Brett Thompson, Rachelle Tome. Not present: Paul Baines.

The Committee was called to order at 4:35 pm. Minutes from the 11/12/21 meeting were approved. It was requested that future documents be in 14 pt. font for readability online.

Town Hall Survey

The group reviewed several draft questions and suggested that questions be framed so that responses would be yes or no. An article about the survey (and links) would be included in the next Bowdoinham Newsletter. Betsy agreed to work with Nicole to finalize the survey.

Donations

There was discussion about community priorities for the building as a way to set goals for fundraising. Members suggested that a thorough inspection, including geotechnical and structural aspects, should be performed in order to determine critical projects. Some work would require an RFP process in order to proceed.

Betsy provided an update on fundraising to date. There has been \$429 in donations. Calendars have raised \$200 and note cards have brought in \$219. Both are available at the Gift Shop, Library and Town Office. It was suggested that Facebook Marketplace be explored as a possible sales venue and posted on the Town's website.

The group decided to keep a list of donors/ donations and to send Thank you cards upon receipt. Rachelle agreed to keep track and send out cards as needed. Brett shared a mockup of a thermometer with the Town Hall that can be used to show fund raising progress. Betsy reminded folks of the BHS match for donations and suggested this be publicized. It was also suggested that groups using the building should be expected to contribute some funding for using the building and to defray repair/ upkeep costs. Perhaps a percentage added to the use contract?

Putting donation jars at the Bowdoinham Country Store and Three Robbers Pub was proposed as a possible fund raiser.

Other business

A preliminary review of the Town Hall, conducted by Darren Carey, Brett Thompson and Paul Baines was shared. The need for a formal review of the structure and potential need for an RFP for some aspects was reiterated. Three key areas need review: 1) roof, 2) overall structure, and 3) geotechnical. Paul offered to contact Helen Watts in order to get a general sense of what is ahead. Betsy also offered to contact David Berry. Some repairs will be big ticket items and will require more than local fundraising. Possible grants should be explored.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:43 pm.

Actions

Betsy/ Nicole-finalize survey

Betsy- contact David Berry (building repairs)

Paul-contact Helen Watts (building repairs)

Rachelle- Send Thank you cards to donors

Agenda Items for Next Meetings

- Survey update
- Repair estimates
- Helen Watts attendance (if possible)
- Donation/ funding updates

Next meeting: Wednesday, 1/19 at 4:30 PM in the Kendall Room. The public is welcome.