

Town Hall Preservation Committee

May 18, 2022

Committee members present: Paul Baines, Mark Dube, Brad Foley, Betsy Steen, Brett Thompson-Chair, Rachelle Tome, Darren Carey

The Committee was called to order at 4:30 pm. Minutes from 4/20/22 were reviewed. Requested changes were to correct budget dates to reflect 2022-2023, add Brett Thompson as the contact for Mr. Copp, and correct the spelling of Darren Carey's name. Motion to accept as revised. (Paul/Brad) Passed- 5-yeyes; 1-abstention

Committee Updates

- A. Paul Baines- Paul provided a proposal from Preservation Timber Framing Inc. to perform an existing conditions assessment on the Town Hall. Proposed cost for the review is \$6000. Review could inform the next steps in developing an action plan for improvements. Funding to cover costs is currently available through the Bowdoinham Historical Society (BHS) through various means, including earmarked donations and matched funds. Brett asked for clarification related to repairs that may have been incorrect. Paul provided an explanation, with information related to trusses.

Darren reviewed the protocols for fundings projects: the Committee makes a recommendation to the Select Board. If the Select Board provides approval, the project can proceed. Motion by Rachelle Tome/seconded by Betsy Steen- to accept the proposal presented by Paul Baines from Preservation Timber Framing Inc. to perform an existing conditions assessment on the Town Hall, and to forward a recommendation to the Select Board to accept and approve the proposal. Unanimous in favor.

- B. Betsy Steen- No updates
- C. Brett Thompson- Brett met with Mr. Copp in April. It was estimated that \$40-45K would be needed to lift the building, with 18 inches of space needed. It's not clear if the necessary space is available. Moving the building was not recommended. Some stonework might need to be removed to check height needs. Alternative options for lifting the building were briefly discussed.

An update on the funding thermometer was shared. The group agreed to place it in the yard visible to those coming to the Town Office. A photo would be submitted in to the Bowdoinham News.

- D. Fundraising- Donations are continuing to come in. The next fundraiser will be at the June 26th Waterfront Concert. Supper, with an 1823 theme, will be provided for purchase. Menu items include fish chowder, corn bread and salads. The group shared ideas for fundraising, including donor plaques similar to those for windows at Merrymeeting Hall and quilt raffles. It was agreed to move forward with a silent auction at Bowdoinham Days.
- E. Publicity- Rachele volunteered to submit an article for the Bowdoinham News with committee updates. Included in the article will information about the food and concert on the 26th, request for items for the Silent Auction, and information for making donations. The new funding thermometer created by Brett will also help bring attention to funding goals and progress.

Next Steps

Committee members discussed possible timelines for work. Darren will get the proposal from Preservation Timber Framing Inc. on the next available Select board meeting agenda (hopefully May 24th). Assuming approval, once the building review is completed, the committee can revisit priorities and determine a timeline. More information from Mr. Copp may also be available.

Darren Carey shared potential funding information from Belvedere Historic Preservation and Energy Efficiency grant program. He will continue to pursue the possibility of obtaining funds for the Town Hall project.

It was suggested that Charlie Crosby with the Cryer be contacted for an article about the Town Hall and restoration efforts.

Rachele shared an example of a Cat's Meow small wooden building replica. Brett offered to explore the possibility of creating a replica of the Town Hall that could be sold as a fund raiser.

Motion to adjourn (Brad/Betsy), approved unanimously at 5:42 pm

Next meeting: Wednesday, 6/15 at 4:30 PM at Merrymeeting Hall. The public is welcome.