

Town Hall Preservation Committee

August 22, 2023

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

Selectboard member: Mark Favreau

Community member: George Christopher

The Committee was called to order at 4:35 pm.

Approval of minutes for May 27th were tabled.

Election of committee chair tabled.

Next Steps:

- a) Celebrate: It was determined that there would be a table, tent, recent reports, and models of the Town Hall set up for Celebrate Bowdoinham. Paul Baines and Mark Favreau would be available throughout the day to answer questions. Rachelle Tome planned to be at the tent following the parade. A white board would be available for visitors to post questions. An information table would also be set up at Merrymeeting Hall.
- b) 5 & 10- year plans: Those present discussed developing potential plans spanning both 5 or 10 years which could break down repair projects and costs into doable fund-raising chunks. Key issues to consider include stabilization of the foundation and addressing the roof. Larger projects might require engineers. Nicole shared that she had provided Peter Feeney with a copy of the report. He had indicated an interest in sharing the details with a friend, who may have alternate suggestions. Possibilities for fund raising, such as a Go-Fund Me or other alternate options, were discussed. It was also suggested that local students could video tape progress as part of a school project.
- c) RFP for building removal: Those present indicated that information related to demolition, and other options, such as sale or removal, should be explored in order to provide the community with all pertinent information. The committee asked Nicole to continue gathering information.

Subcommittee updates:

- a) Building: Mark Favreau suggested researching and gathering pertinent information and developing repair options throughout the winter to have details available well in advance of the Town Meeting. It was also suggested that public forums be held in the spring for more input. Wendy Cunningham could be contacted to develop potential RFPs.
- b) Fundraising:
 - a. Rachelle shared that she had been contacted by Brad Miller, as a follow-up to our application to Maine Preservation for designation as an Endangered Historic Place. Final selection is still in the works. We look forward to hearing more soon, with

fingers crossed. Designation as an endangered building would increase awareness on a wider scale, beyond Bowdoinham, and could improve future fundraising efforts. Current fund-raising projects are on a smaller scale; much smaller than what is needed for critical restoration projects.

- b. Nicole provided information related to TIF funding. Other funding could be available depending on the building uses, perhaps as part of emergency management. Different uses create eligibility for different funding sources. Exploration of historical status and the impact on use of the building was also briefly discussed.

The group agreed to adjourn at 5:53 pm

Next regular meeting: Tuesday, 9/26/23 at 4:30 PM in the Graduate Room. The public is welcome.