

FRANCESTOWN HERITAGE COMMISSION  
Minutes of January 11, 2014 Meeting

Present: Maureen VonRosenvinge, BJ Carbee, Diane Curran, Michele Ferencsik, Betsy Hardwick, Elly Miles  
Excused: Barbara Caskie  
Others: Scott Carbee, Polly Freese, Warren Kiblin

The minutes of the 12/14/13 meeting were approved with the correction of "\$525,000" to read "\$525,000 to \$880,000 depending on code restrictions".

Maureen reported on ideas for alternate use of the Town Hall which were suggested at the last Town Budget Committee meeting -- namely that the Town Offices building be sold and the Town Hall 2nd Floor be used for town offices. The sale revenue would be used for the Town's portion of the Town Hall renovation.

Points brought up in the ensuing discussion were:

Near continuous use would be a plus in acquiring LCHIP funding.

Negatives include restrictive space, needing an elevator instead of a LULA, and possible other requirements for parking and septic.

Due to still declining real estate market factors, BJ doubted the sale would cover the current Town's portion, as well as additional expenses to move the Town Offices.

Thinking about other uses for the building is a good concept which merits being explored further. If heat and plumbing were installed to code, many meetings now held elsewhere in less-than-adequate space could accommodate more people in the Town Hall.

The Commission will be holding public hearings during 2014 for design and use of the 2nd floor and many of these suggestions could be explored then. The Commission and BOS can present the pros and cons of different types of usage but it is ultimately up to Frankestown residents to decide how they want the building to be used.

Two ideas were suggested for inclusion in the LCHIP grant application: The first was to support a potential use claim by listing other events (i.e., meetings re Crotched) and their attendance figures showing a larger venue was needed. The other was that the Town Hall would also be a solution for meeting location conflicts.

Maureen will present a request at the 1/13 BOS meeting for the Town to get a bond for \$350,000 to cover the Town's portion of the Town Hall renovation.

There was a year-end donation from the Houston's of \$1,000.00. With thanks and appreciation, the Commission members voted unanimously to accept the donation.

Scott brought up the issue of snow storage from Town Hall parking lot snow removal. The piles of snow are affecting the Museum and Sheds and should be trucked away. The Commission can express concern about this issue but the resolution of the problem lies with the BOS and Highway Dept.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for February 8, 2014 at 9 AM.

The meeting adjourned at 9:50 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Elly Miles