

**New Durham Board of Selectmen's
Meeting Minutes
Meetinghouse Site Visit**

March 29, 2016

Members Present: Chairman David Bickford, Selectman David Swenson and Selectman Gregory Anthes

Also Present: Town Administrator Scott Kinmond, Cathy Allyn- Meetinghouse Committee, Cathy Orolowitz- Town Historian, Sue Randall- Resident, Clayton Randall- Resident, Patty Tollner- Meetinghouse Committee, Jim Tollner- Resident, George Gale- Resident, Terry Jarvis- Resident, Scott Drummey- Resident, Steve Fifield- Timber Frame Consultant. Janis Anthes-Resident

Chairman Bickford called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m., at the Meetinghouse located on Old Bay Road.

- I. The board is looking to see how to proceed in the Meetinghouse project since the funds were approved by Article 6 at the 2016 Town Meeting.

George Gale recommended that they look at a restoration plan. Mr. Gale also discussed some of the work that has already been done, including the foundation.

Selectman Anthes stated he would like to get everyone together and have a plan for the building, and how to get there. Many in attendance asked what the hurry was. Selectman Swenson advocated that the Meetinghouse Committee needs to put a plan together for the building recognizing the structure is historical for the exterior and interior appearance, but to make it modernized with electrical and WIFI etc. for its intended potential use. The Board expressed that the intent is to move it along to the next phase, with that establishing a scope and specifications. Mr. Gale stated he would like to see the Town look into having the Preservation Alliance partially fund a detailed study on the building, which will require some matching funds. Mr. Gale said, stop and make a plan. Selectman Bickford stated that he has been waiting for a plan, and the committee did not wish to provide that and seemed to be held up on the foundation plan. Selectman Bickford asked Mr. Fifield his opinion regarding the foundation work. Mr. Fifield stated he didn't know how the building would react after the foundation work, due to certain parts of the building needing structural support.

Ellen Phillips asked what happened to this project being educational with the timber framers and residents. Mr. Gale stated that that went with Mr. Sturgis. Mr. Tollner stated that folks need to put their personalities aside, no one is an engineer and we need to have it done professionally. He asked everyone to put personality issues aside, He recommended that this needs to happen to allow this to move forward, so we can let those with expertise do the good work.

Selectman Anthes stated that the Foundation plan is only part of the plan. Cathy Orlowitz stated that once you start on the foundation you won't have to do as much as you think, but she felt that a plan is needed for what you want to do with the building? What is the end use for the building? How are you going to preserve it and to what time period (1772 or 1838) are you going to preserve it?

Cathy Allyn said the committee feels an assessment plan is the next phase to help with decisions moving forward. Cathy Orolowitz stated that the building sits on a dry laid rock foundation that sits on ledge (2' down.) She stated that the building has seen many different alterations over the years for different reasons, such as the removal of the 1st story. The question would be do you restore to 1838 or where and what era.

Selectman Anthes indicated he would support all interested people in serving on the Meetinghouse Committee. Mr. Tollner asked what is going to be different this time. Mr. Gale stated that with the Preservation Alliance grant for the restoration plan it will be done professionally and provide a step-by-step process toward total restoration. Mrs. Tollner asked who was going to control the process.

Selectman Swenson stated it is the Meetinghouse Committee's charge to get the process moving and work toward the use of the LCHIP Grant, which he believed expires in 2016. Selectman Bickford asked Mr. Fifield if he felt there was a sense of urgency, and anything he would recommend to be done immediately. Mr. Fifield said he would place some temporary post in the center of the building to help the structure through the winter. He said the building is sound and in good shape, good foundation and the roof should be good for another 5-10 years. He said the gable ends are leaning and may need to be braced up. He said to make the gable end repairs it would require post being spliced and pulling up roof boards. Mr. Drummey asked if the repair process can be written as openly as possible so as many can bid.

Many folks started to leave.

Selectman Swenson moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Selectmen Anthes. Motion was passed 2-1 (Selectman Bickford opposed).

Meeting adjourned 6:45 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Scott D. Kinmond,
Town Administrator

Final Approved 041816