

Town Hall Committee Meeting Minutes February 16, 2007 9:00 AM

Present: Paul Cuetara, chair, Rich Goeselt, Ben King, Red Mabey, Craig Salomon
Absent: Henry Marsh, Steve Miller

After discussing strategies for the restoration of the hall, there was unanimous agreement that the steeple restoration, proposed by Red and Rich, would be a good initial project, for the following reasons:

- 1.0 The steeple needs urgent repair regardless of whether the Hall is eventually moved.
- 2.0 The clock and bell recently restored from a Hobb's Fund Grant would benefit from the added protection of a new steeple roof and repair of rotted wood in the steeple structure.
- 3.0 The main roof of the hall also needs replacement but should not be done until the steeple work is completed because of potential damage to the hall roof from the steeple staging, roofing, and repair.
- 4.0 Steeple repair would also be a high external visibility restoration project in the public view and help bring awareness and support for the big job that lies ahead in restoring the entire hall.
- 5.0 The steeple restoration does not involve any physical change in shape or design and should not require the discussion and inputs from the public and potential user groups such as to whether simply remove or rebuild the 1958 deteriorated kitchen addition.

Paul is to contact the BOS to request an opportunity at the next BOS mtg. February 26 for Paul and Rich to request funding from the Town Building Maintenance Fund which has \$48.6K remaining from the \$100K voted last March. The specific request would be for the BOS to authorize Red Mabey to engage an engineering firm to prepare a Request For Proposal (RFP) to forward a bidding process for the steeple restoration. Currently, only \$1,145 from this fund has been spent on the town hall for cleaning.

At 10:00 AM Paul Cuetara introduced Maggie Stier from the New Hampshire Preservation Alliance who came to review our hall and comment on whether our hall would be a candidate for state funding (grant) to help with an architectural review of the building and possibly some financial help with the restoration effort. She made it clear that the willingness of the town to fund restoration would help the grant application. She was also impressed with the exterior of the Hall and its history and reinforced our conviction that the Hall was a town treasure that deserved preservation. She also commented that some of the interior changes detracted from its historical heritage. Paul agreed to work with Maggie to file to a grant application.

The next meeting of the committee is tentatively scheduled for Thursday March 8th @ 7.00 PM in the Mary Herbert Room.

Respectfully submitted,
Rich Goeselt, vice-chair & secretary