

TOWN OF WASHINGTON

SELECTMEN'S MEETINGHOUSE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES AUGUST 24, 2010

1.0 ASSEMBLY

1.1 Meeting called to order at 7:05 P.M.

1.2 Chairmen: Guy Eaton, Ken Eastman, Tom Marshall

1.3 Members Present: Lionel Chute, Bill Cole, Jim Crandall, Arline France, Gwen Gaskell, Ronald Jager, Drew Queen, Sandy Robinson, Carolyn Russell, Jim Russell, Jed Schwartz, Robert Wright

Members Excused: Phil Barker

Members Absent: Allan Dube, Robert Wright

1.4 Minutes taken by: Carolyn Russell

4.0 NEW BUSINESS:

4.1 Dr. James Garvin's Presentation—Historic Building Assessment With Guidelines for Rehabilitation—on July 20, 2010, replaced the regular monthly meeting of the Selectmen's Meetinghouse Advisory Committee. Since not all committee members attended the presentation, the Selectmen distributed a summary of the main points of Dr. Garvin's report:

- Principal rehabilitation objectives are to return full accessibility and enhance municipal and social uses. (p. 2)
- Major changes over 50 years old should stay. (p. 2)
- Report urges thoughtful evaluation of changes. (p. 33)
- General list of character-defining features. (p. 33)
- Statement of significance. (p. 34) May be useful in future grant applications.
- Any future work must be guided by Secretary of Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation. (p. 59)
- Recommends an independent preservation consultant which is standard procedure. (p. 38)
- Review general concepts mentioned in LCHIP grant (p. 38)
- Insulation is a major concern. (p. 39)
- Archeology is a major concern. (See Scope of Work) (p. 39)
- Review Secretary of Interior's standards. (p. 59)

4.2 DISCUSSION POINTS:

- Guy Eaton reminded us that the Old Home Days play revived memories of the use of 2nd fl.
- P. 34-35: Significance of interior changes made to original building must be considered in future planning since these changes were made in response to social changes of the times.
- Consideration of the value of creating open spaces led to a discussion of the pillars and the need to understand their load bearing capacities and functions. We need to know how the ones hidden in the walls were built to provide for future support of the ceiling. Movement of interior walls would allow re-arrangement of office space.
- Report focuses on historic elements of building rather than functionality. Important to step back and take long view of use of space so that historic considerations and development of space are complementary.
- We were reminded that at our first meeting we decided that new foundation is the first consideration for future planning.
- Current reconfiguration of office spaces is a good learning experience. It allows for testing of space allowed for different offices, visual changes, traffic patterns, and response by users.
- New construction will allow for better provision of modern office space. It would consider entrance/parking patterns and focus on how space will be used. What is the vision for the uses of each floor--offices, meeting spaces, capacities of each floor? There is a need to consider limitations of space as it currently is, i.e., benches on walls. A new lower level would use entire area for office space. We need to leave room for growth.

- We reviewed the order of 3 meetings held so far: First meeting discussed all aspects of building. Members agreed that a full foundation was the only way to begin. The second meeting continued discussion of the future use of the building and decided unanimously on restoring access to the second floor. The rest of the meeting was spent on fundraising ideas, especially for Old Home Days.
- The question was asked about when we call in experts to help think about space usage. Rick Monahon should be asked to join in. He can consider work of the committee and help structure future committee work. He would be a central player in the planning process.
- Question of whether Rick M. is the architect of choice. The committee agreed by voice vote that Monahon is the best choice and that he should be re-engaged as soon as possible. There was a brief discussion of funding and use of grant money to begin a new contract.

4.3 FUNDRAISING

Guy Eaton announced that a Halloween Dance would be held on 10/23 as a fundraiser for the Meetinghouse Preservation Fund. Colleen Duggan and Michelle Dagesse are organizing the effort.

5.0 ADJOURNMENT

5.1 Next meeting will be Sept. 28 at 7:00 P.M. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 P.M.

Respectfully,

Carolyn Russell
Secretary, Selectmen's Meetinghouse Advisory Committee