

Town of Washington

Selectmen's Advisory Committee

February 22, 2011

Attendees: Rick Monahon, David Drasba, Arline France, Carolyn Russell, Ron Jager, Gwen Gaskell, Drew Queen, Tom Marshall, Ken Eastman, Guy Eaton, Jed Schwartz, Jim Crandall, Bill Cole, Phil Barker and Annie Bissonnette

Minutes taken by: Michelle Dagesse

Eaton welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Mr. Monahon and his association Mr. Drasba. Mr Monahon was attending the meeting to update everyone on the plans that had been given to him from the Committee recently. Monahon thanked everyone for their hard work and said that any changes were minor and in reference to perhaps a code or another small detail. A fire door was included in between the stair area and the lobby; this will also assist as a weather entry door. Changes will continue to be put into place as the project moves along. Monahon asked if the Selectmen intend to hold meetings in the lower level (new office) or maintain meetings in their current location. Eaton suggested that if it were a small meeting it could be held in the new office space. Monahon provided a proposed plan of the current first floor, which would contain three similar sized office (meeting room) spaces. Barker suggested that the current first floor remain the same with one large, one medium and one small meeting room. Monahon agreed that this would be a good solution as well. Monahon went onto explain his intentions of non-invasive exploration of the upstairs by searching a crawl space. Monahon said that he was not concerned about the seating area or the stage but the main floor space and the comments made regarding bouncing. Schwartz asked if removing floorboards would be an option. Monahon suggested that he would rather cut a piece of the ceiling and save the floorboards. Cole asked about building code compliance with the load limit on the third floor. Monahon explained that he would have to provide the Town with a load limit and he would have structural engineers come up with that figure but that this building has been standing for many years and we need to recognize that. Barker said that he and Jager had opened a number of areas in the building during the working on "A Portrait of a Hill Town." Jager asked if we need to know the pressure the building can take before lifting it? Monahon explained the process of lifting the building and the measures that are taken. "It is a precise process" said Monahon. Bissonnette asked if the Town could get feedback information from the lift, such as load limits and what areas are at a higher risk than others. Barker said that this information could come from the gauge pressure. Monahon said that every building lift is a little different, the building is fairly level on the perimeter and the only real failing is the materials that are propped in to hold the building (rocks, shovels, doors) Crandall asked what would be presented at Town Meeting for the public's review. Eaton explained the proposed drawing of the exterior entrance. Cole asked if the 1.3 million proposal includes a new septic system. Monahon said no and the exterior landscaping is not included in the estimate either. Cole asked if the proposed plan would provide 8' ceiling height in the lower level. Monahon answered yes. Eastman thanked the Committee for all of its hard work and especially Drew Queen and Anthony Costello for their knowledge and assistance.

The meeting shifted to fundraising. Eaton there is a dance Saturday at Camp Morgan Lodge. Eaton introduced Annie Bissonnette saying that she has expressed interest in assisting the group in fundraising. Bissonnette explained her background and offered her assistance. Barker said that the Town Hall is listed on the National Register and there may be federal funds available. Monahon agreed. Russell said that there are many avenues for grants once we are firmly in the planning process and we have the support of the communities behind us in the restoration/preservation of this building. Russell explained that the LCHIP expires in January 2012 and at the 2012 Town Meeting the documents will be complete to present. Schwartz said that we have always taken the approach to phase the project. Russell agreed but said that it would be easier to back into phasing the project, this would have us only going out once for grants instead of several times. Schwartz asked what would the 1.3 million estimates get us. Monahon said that this would be for a complete office area, mechanical systems and ready to go. Queen said that we should take thoughtful consideration when discussing fundraising for this building. A few more comments were made regarding fundraising and the group disbursed.

Eastman motioned to adjourn at 8:00PM. Eaton seconded the motion. All voted in favor.