

Town of Washington
Selectmen's Advisory Committee
March 29, 2011

Attendees: Guy Eaton, Ken Eastman, Tom Marshall, Bill Cole, Jim Crandall, Phil Barker, Jim Russell, Carolyn Russell, Sandy Robinson, Jed Schwartz, Gwen Gaskell and Lionel Chute.

Minutes taken by: Michelle Dagesse

Eaton opened the meeting at 7PM.

Eaton stated that the Committee's first attempt at fundraising seemed successful and asked how the group felt about the response. The group seemed pleased with the end of the year fundraising letter that had been sent out. Eaton said that the Selectmen had discussed what they would like to see from the group next examples were fundraising and grant seeking options. Eaton also said that the Selectmen agreed that we should meet maybe every three months instead of on a monthly basis, this will allow the group to work but not get burnt out.

The group continued to discuss the process of fundraising and grant applications. Russell asked if we would need proof of Town support for some grant applications and can we make a blanket warrant article stating the Town supports us moving forward without a dollar amount. Eaton answered that the Selectmen would have to research this option. Marshall said that the Town has supported the project with two meeting votes in the affirmative, donations and matching the LCHIP grant. Russell said that she had spoken with an acquaintance of hers and she suggested that the Town set up a 501c 3 this will assist us when we are looking for serious fundraising opportunities. Marshall asked Russell if there were any drawbacks on establishing such a fund. Russell said no. Chute stated that the Town will be asked every step of the way through matching funds and this will show the Town's support. Chute then asked why are we not moving forward before the current bonds are paid in full? Marshall said based on the current economic climate our Town is in good shape but we the Selectmen are reluctant to disturb the flow. We are responsible for our taxpayers and cannot justify such an expenditure at this time. Gaskell said that this option was discussed several times and maybe Chute had missed these meetings, we have many fixed income households as well as a young population that are financially bound at this time. Gaskell said that we as a group should only want to present the project to the Town when it would be more likely to be approved and this is not the time. Crandall asked if there was a way to wrap up the bonds? The Selectmen were not aware of the option. Jim Russell said that we should be looking at phases the first being a planning phase and the second to expend the funds. Robinson said that the first opportunity to apply for grants would be in 2012. The group agreed that professional help in the fundraising process would be needed on an advisory basis. Marshall said that this building will go up but with undo burden on the taxpayers. Chute suggested that the group meet with other Town members that have done renovation/preservation projects and gather some of their experiences. Russell said that there is a website techsoup.org that the group could look into. Russell suggested that the group take time and look at the

ways they are personally approached for donations and bring some of this information back to the group.

The Selectmen asked the Committee if they were happy scheduling the next meeting for June 28, 2011. The group agreed. The Selectmen confirmed that if the group felt a meeting was needed before this date that one would be set up.

The Committee also decided to use the email list as a way to keep in contact with each other in the interim.

Jim Russell worked up a diagram of the possible phases. Carolyn was going to work on it and email it to the members for their input.

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