

Historic Sites Committee

(a work committee of the Hyde Park Town Planning Commission)

MINUTES

Tuesday, May 17, 2016

Meeting Held at Grange Hall, VT 100

Present: Jim Heath, Kevin Fitzgerald, Monica Heath, Duncan Tingle
Absent: None
Guests: Greg Paus, Chris Hadsel – Curtains without Borders, Carolyn Jones, Bob Jones
Staff: Ron Rodjenski

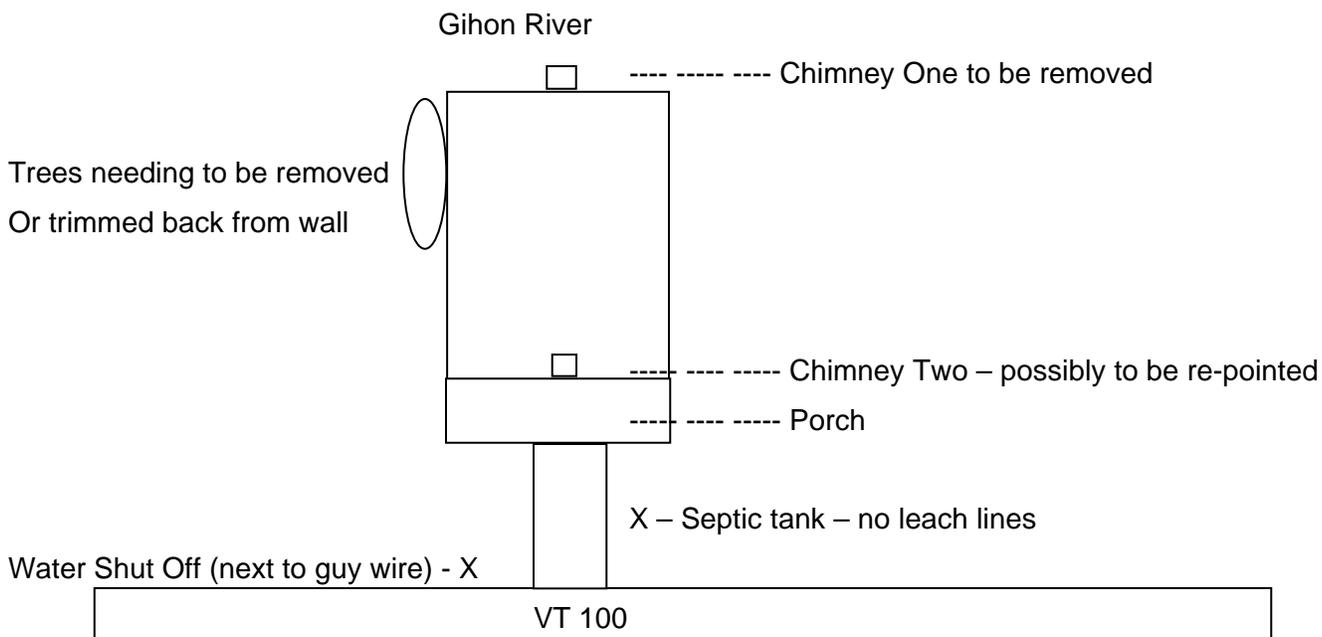
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1. Welcome - Ron welcomed Chris Hadsel at 4:35 p.m. Greg and Ron had previously thanked the owner of the Old Hotel for mowing the Grange lawn which was completed just as they had arrived tonight.
 2. Chris Hadsel – Chris provided a short history of the stage curtain that was restored in 2000, and is now kept rolled up most of the time. A well-attended dance was held at that time to celebrate the curain restoration. The artist that painted this curtain, and the one at the Hyde Park Opera House, was Charles Andrus, who died at the Waterbury Mental Hospital in 1919. The curtain was painted about the time the Grange was built, in 1910. Carolyn noted that the Gihon Valley Grange bought the hall from a community group – the Valley Hall Association. Chris explained that the heavy smoke damage, dark staining, on the top 1/6th of the curtain could not be removed without damaging the painting. Chris noted that this curtain was the first major challenge for Curtains without Borders due to the damage from age and use and the only value is its value to the building and community. Touch-up painting and installation of new pull ropes were completed by Curtains without Borders in 2010 or so. Chris said that it was in stable condition now and would not fall, but she strongly encouraged the town to not let anyone bring it down unless trained or supervised.

Maintenance Recommendations:

- Keep the curtain rolled up but leave it exposed from the ceiling down about one foot.
 - Use a lock on the ropes that pull the curtain up to discourage vandalism
 - Leave the original cleat (on the left side of the stage – south side), but Chris provided a new larger one to be installed above the historic cleat since it is larger and easier to wrap with the wire locking device.
 - When rolling back up, watch for, with each pull, and folds, then straighten before continuing.
 - When rolling down, make sure curtain is resting off the floor and does not come down quickly as this will collect dirt or tear or damage the curtain.
 - The window on the stage, south side should be covered to prevent sunlight from hitting curtain.
 - Any new tears should be repaired when found.
 - For vandalism risk, the town's insurance should cover up to \$5,000 for repairing, but she could not place a replacement value on it for insurance purposes since it is the only one and could not be reproduced and retain its 100 yr old value to the building.
 - Water based paints are used as they stretch just enough to allow rolling up (oil based will crack).
 - When rolling make sure painting is on outside, if rolled inside, it will stress the paint too much.
 - Rolling should occur when temperature is over 32 degrees.
3. Grange Repairs – The committee viewed the plaster failing on many parts of the ceiling, water damage from the roof, and the need to remove the old gas furnace on the second floor, remove the rear chimney which is pulling on the west exterior wall, remove the trees on the south side that are growing into the

building, and not removing the paint on the historic “Gihon Valley Grange” sign that is stored inside but had been displayed on the street side off the second floor porch. Jim thought the neighbor to the south should be contacted to remove the trees. Carolyn noted that a neighbor, Tom Haney, used to mow the Grange lawn. The rear chimney brick, once demolished, could be used to stabilize the rear bank around the Grange foundation. The front chimney is short and could be re-pointed or interior examined to check on water issues. A small foundation wall should be removed in the area of the boys & girls old bathroom areas. The windows and access points along the foundation wall should be inspected and rebuilt where damaged or deteriorating.

Sketch of Repair Work



4. Minutes – The review of prior minutes deferred to a future meeting.

5. Adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, June 7, 2016 at 4:30 p.m. Possibly meeting at Joneslan Farm’s Historic Barns on Jones Road.