



Hyde Park, VT

Historic Sites Committee

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

MINUTES

Monday, January 13, 2020 at 5:30 p.m.

Meeting Held at Hyde Park Municipal Offices, 344 Route 15 West

Members: Liz Courtney, Monica Heath, H. Dale Porter, Allen Spitzer, Lindsay Reese
Guests: None
Staff: None

Al called the meeting to order 5:35pm

Update on Repairs

- Discussed estimates currently being gathered for repairs we hope to tackle in 2020 and to be added to our budget request for fiscal year 2021. This included windows and insulated doors for the first floor to improve heat retention and security, getting the extant heating system checked and ready for use -- which will likely require a new tank and possibly other upgrades, and having an electrician address any live wires and potential safety hazards in the basement and upper floors. We agreed that reinforcing the back wall of the building is not an urgent structural concern and can wait until a future date.

Gihon Valley Hall Committee - Meeting Minutes - Monday, January 13, 2020

In attendance: Liz Courtney, H. Dale Porter, Monica Heath, Laura Race, Andy Race, Al Spitzer

Al called the meeting to order at 5:40pm

Forming a 501(c)3

- In order to apply for certain grants, we've been looking into forming a nonprofit 501(c)3
- Lindsay is taking the lead on the application; given our size and scope we only need to do the short and easy form. Application will cost \$275, which is great since we have only \$1 short of that in our coffer from 2019 fundraising. Lindsay will let us know once the paperwork has been submitted.
- Liz shared some benefits of having a 501(c)3 per her previous conversations with the Johnson Historical Society and Lanpher Library. Those orgs similarly operate in a building that is owned by the town but have a fundraising entity that focuses on donations and advocacy for the wider group. They also offer memberships with tiered benefits to help get recurring donations and give community members a sense of ownership in the project.

- The committee agreed that whatever paperwork and accounting may be necessary for the 501(c)3 will easily pay off in our ability to apply for more grants and have more flexibility with fundraising.

Grants

- Lindsay is submitting our letter of intent for the 1772 Foundation Grant to the Preservation Trust of Vermont (due 1/15)
- Ron has shared some info about pedestrian and bike safety relevant to the Municipal Planning Grant project; Liz will check in to see what next steps are with Seth

Planning for Town Meeting Day

- Al read a prepared letter for our Town Meeting Day presentation; the committee approved of the message and provided some steers on how to edit the flow and focus
- Liz will draft a print summary for the Town Meeting report
- Al and Liz can represent our committee on Town Meeting Day, Andy and Laura will tentatively attend, Dale and Monica have other commitments and will not be able to attend

Repairs

- Al has reached out to several area heating companies to get quotes for testing the Hall's existing heating system. Other than an initial conversation with Bourne's he's not received the responses he was looking for. The committee suggested he reach out again with the ask that we receive a quote also for what a heating system installation for the 1st floor (27K cubic ft of air) would cost so we can start to compare options *before* testing the existing system.
- Dale is in touch with Steve Laflin to get a quote for the basic electrical safety work needed

Planning a Winter Fundraiser

- We presented our plans for the coming year to the select board on 12/16/19 and they were supportive. Roger Audet suggested that to keep momentum going for the project we not wait until warmer weather to have another fundraising event, but look into hosting something off-site like a dinner.
- The committee discussed a few ideas including a sugar on snow party at the hall and having a pancake breakfast or spaghetti dinner nearby at the N Hyde Park Eden firehouse.
- A spaghetti dinner seeming like the best option for ease of production and likelihood to draw a crowd, the committee discussed logistics of hosting it at the firehouse.
- Andy offered to reach out to Roger to inquire about the events calendar, and Monica will speak to John as well.
- Ideal dates would be a Saturday evening in March, possibly 3/14 or 3/21.
- Dale suggested asking Price Chopper to donate some of the supplies.
- A sugar on snow party remains 'plan B' if we cannot access the space we need for a dinner.

Programming, Rentals and Partnerships

- As we prepare to host more events at the hall, Liz said that her husband Zeph would like to offer his talents as a musician and a jazz group he's starting to be a go-to resource for live music at various Gihon Valley Hall events -- the committee was in favor
- We discussed the need to formulate a structure and pricing for when outside groups want to use the hall for events. Liz volunteered to ask around other area venues to get a sense of how they charge for rentals and what % or fee from events goes to the venue vs the talent.
- Liz suggested we might plan for the committee to host and produce four fundraising events annually, roughly one per season, and then fill in the rest of the calendar with public events produced by other organizations/people and with rentals for private things like parties and club meetings. Ideally this will include some recurring events like yoga classes or live music curated by people like Zeph.
- Monica suggested we field a survey to get a sense from Hyde Park residents what kind of programming they'd be most excited to see at the Hall. Liz offered to draft a short survey that we can deploy via Facebook, Front Porch Forum, email, and print out a handful to have at Town Meeting Day.

Monica motioned for the meeting to adjourn at 7:05; Laura seconded.

Next meeting: Monday, February 10th, 2020 at 5:30pm at the town office*

**This may move to 2/17 to accommodate the 2/10 Municipal Planning Grant kick off meeting -- we'll circulate an update once confirmed*

Next Meetings

- Wreath Lighting Event on Friday, November 29 at 5pm at the Gihon Valley Hall
- Next regular meeting is Monday, December 9 at the Town Office. Agreed to meet at 5pm to cover business before joining PC meeting at 5:30pm.
- Join Selectboard meeting on Monday, December 16 to share budget request.

Meeting adjourned at 6:45pm