

Harwinton House Committee

Minutes of Meeting

February 20, 2013

The regular meeting of the Harwinton House Committee was held in the west meeting room of Town Hall on Wednesday, February 20, 2013.

After establishing a quorum chairman Roger Plaskett called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM. Present were Roger Plaskett, Peter Thierry, Charlie Kirchofer, Tom Rotondo and Brian Dunbar. Also in attendance were Dick Pacholski and Candace Jones-Pacholski representing Harwinton Historical Society, and Roy Gilley, Michael Sileo and Rafael Amaya of Amaya Architects.

Chairman Plaskett, without committee objection, appointed Peter Thierry meeting moderator and himself as meeting secretary.

Moderator Thierry asked for approval of the January 16, 2013 meeting minutes. Tom Rotundo made a motion that the minutes be approved. The motion was seconded by Brian Dunbar and the minutes were approved.

Under correspondence there were no questions raised from the committee regarding recent emails including Tom Schoenemann's letter of resignation, the response letter from O & G Industries or any other correspondence including the signed contract between the town and Amaya Architects. Roger Plaskett then presented Amaya with a retainer check in the amount of \$2500 as authorized by 1st Selectman Michael Criss. Dick Pacholski asked if there was a response from the Town Historian's plea letter to O & G and the response letter was read by Roger Plaskett.

After discussion on whether a replacement should be sought for Tom Schoenemann, it was decided that we would seek a replacement. Roger Plaskett read an email received from Larry Connors recommending an interested party. Charles Kirchofer also had a list of possible candidates. It was decided to wait until next meeting to review candidates and then make a recommendation to the Board of selectman.

On the topic of proceeding with the project under the Secretary of Interiors standards discussion ensued regarding if we should proceed as a Preservation, Restoration, and Rehabilitation or Reconstruction project. Roy Gilley spoke in length regarding why it would be a more easily achieved goal to proceed as a 1930's restoration Project. He stated that things like 1795 windows are hard to come by these days. Even interpreting exactly what the house was like in 1795 is a challenge, at least to the point of restoration. He added that we should preserve the house exactly as we found it. Roger

Plaskett made a motion that we proceed as a preservation project using 1931 as the time period. The motion was seconded by Charles Kirchofer and approved.

Roy Gilley was asked if there were modification limitations to a house that was on the State Register. He said there were none provided they met the Secretary of the Interiors Standards.

Roy told of a story about insulation being used in walls of a preservation project and that it was an issue with the state as the original building was fine for over 200 years without it. Brian Dunbar stated that the town of Harwinton may not want to pay for heat in an un-insulated house. Roy Gilley said that the issue can be argued if it became one.

Roy Gilley stated a number of times how important it is to have a committee member attend an upcoming (May 2013) seminar in Hartford at the State Historic Preservation Office. Roger Plaskett volunteered to join Roy Gilley for that seminar, which does not have an actual scheduled date at this time. It was suggested that Larry Wagner would be a good person to attend also.

Dick Pacholski had little to report from the Historical Society regarding fund raising. He did say that the annual appeal returns appeared to be complete and that he had a scheduled meeting with Society Treasurer Harry Schuh on Thursday evening. He said that he felt the Society could issue a check for the amount that was equal to what the appeal returns had specifically designated for the Harwinton House Project by the end of the month.

Amaya Architects then presented preliminary sketches of a site plan and interior arrangements including the addition of an Ell. It was mentioned that the Ell is likely to be a future addition unless a funding windfall is enjoyed. An open discussion ensued between the Architects, committee members and Historical Society representatives. Amaya Architects will report at the next meeting scheduled for March 5th, 2013.

Moderator Thierry asked about the status of the HPTAG grant application. Candace Jones Pacholski responded that it was submitted on time and that we should hear sometime in march.

The topic of a visit to the storage trailers was mentioned and it was decided tht it was not possible until the snow melts.

With nothing further to discuss, Roger Plaskett made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Brian Dunbar and Moderator Thierry adjourned the meeting at 8:46 p. m.

Respectfully submitted

Roger Plaskett
Interim Meeting Secretary.

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