

Committee Members

Roger Plaskett
Tom Rotondo
Brian Dunbar
Larry Connors
Dick Pacholski
Peter Thierry
Carole Romano
Nancy Schnyer
Keith Golnik

Greg Farmer - Consultant



HARWINTON HOUSE COMMITTEE

Minutes

February 24, 2011

The kick off meeting of the Harwinton House Committee was called to order by interim chairman, Roger Plaskett, at 7:00 PM in the West conference room at the Harwinton Town Hall on Bentley Drive.

All the members listed on the letterhead attended.

First Selectman Frank Chiaramonte made a brief opening statement prior to leaving the meeting, thanking the members for volunteering their time for what he feels will be an interesting and challenging project.

A roundtable introduction ensued with each member introducing themselves along with a brief description of their background and interest in the project.

A motion was made by Larry Connors, seconded by Peter Thierry, to nominate Roger Plaskett for the position of chairman of the committee. No other nominations were made and the vote to appoint Roger was unanimous.

A motion was made by Roger Plaskett, seconded by Nancy Schnyer, to nominate Dick Pacholski for the position of secretary of the committee. No other nominations were made and the vote to appoint Dick was unanimous.

Roger Plaskett walked the group through dozens of photos of the Harwinton House both before and after the movement of the house in 1931. Some of the original structure has been destroyed or modified but a good deal of it remains intact.

Roger provided a brief background of the project. He emphasized the importance of the involvement of the Harwinton Historical Society (HHS). When asked about his opinion of the HHS ability to undertake the responsibility for the maintenance of this project, Dick Pacholski, who is also secretary of the HHS, expressed his concern. HHS has an aging membership and has been unable to attract new members to its ranks. On the positive side there are many inactive members who may be revitalized by this project along with non members who may be attracted to membership via this project. The HHS has a meeting and program on the Harwinton House to be conducted by Roger Plaskett scheduled for Monday, February 28, at 7:00 PM.

Roger emphasized the critical timing associated with this project with a Milestone Dates handout which is attached. He is hopeful that we can get approval for an initial phase consisting of funding for the dismantling and storage of the house using an existing \$150K STEAP grant that was intended for the Wilcox House on Hill Road. A town meeting has been scheduled for March 15 which is a day before the 90 day demolition day is set to expire. Along the way a nomination has been sent to the Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism to add the Harwinton House to the State Register of Historic Places. A public Hearing will be held in Hartford at the Historic Preservation Council on March 2nd.

An open discussion followed. One area of discussion centered on the need to go out to bid. Consultant Greg Farmer thought the project might be eligible for the selection mechanism known as Request for Qualifications (RFQ) rather than the more common Request for Proposals (RFP). With an RFP the contractor accepts a bid price and the town would accept the lowest bidder. With an RFQ, the town accepts a contractor based on their qualifications and experience and then negotiates a contractual price. This type of RFQ and negotiated bid is normally used when there is a need for a very specialized expertise. The town establishes the criteria for selection

and then tries to solicit qualified respondents. Dick Pacholski suggested we contact Town Attorney Mike Rybak for a legal opinion.

Greg Farmer made the following suggestions:

1. That we establish a contract with the owners for the right to move the building prior to the Town Meeting.
2. That we might move the building by sections rather than by dismantling it if we could immediately assemble it.
3. That we take only what we plan to use (leaving behind non historical add-ons).
4. That we obtain assurances from the HHS regarding their buy in regarding the maintenance of the building.
5. That the project may cost up to \$500K over ten years.
6. That the grant opportunities are fewer in this economy and historical grants have fallen further down the list.

Larry Connors estimated that the maintenance cost would be around \$27K. Greg Farmer said \$30K maintenance costs are fairly typical.

Nancy Schnyer suggested getting other town organizations like the Lion's Club, Womens Club, Garden Club, etc. involved.

In closing Roger suggested we call it a night in order to digest and consider the information from tonight's meeting. Our next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 2, at the Harwinton Town Hall.

Meeting adjourned at 9:12 on a motion by Peter Thierry, seconded by Larry Connors.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Richard Pacholski". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Richard Pacholski, Secretary