

Harwinton House Committee

Minutes of Regular Meeting

December 19, 2012

A regular meeting of the Harwinton House Committee was held in the west meeting room of Town Hall on Wednesday, December 19, 2012.

After establishing a quorum chairman Roger Plaskett called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM. Present were Roger Plaskett, Charlie Kirchofer, Tom Rotondo, Carole Romano, Tom Schoenemann, Peter Thierry and Larry Connors. Also in attendance were Dick Pacholski, Candace Jones-Pacholski, Dennis and Bonnie Andrews, and Corrine and Jim Curtiss, all representing Harwinton Historical Society, and Carol Bramley from Greater Litchfield Preservation Trust. First Selectman Michael Criss also attended.

Minutes of the December 4th meeting were approved on a motion by Tom Rotondo and second by Tom Schoenemann.

The letter written by Roger as Town Historian to Greg Oneglia has not yet elicited a response.

The recommendation to the Board of Selectmen based on our last meeting was sent on November 26. Subsequently the Selectmen voted to accept our recommendation and offer the contract to Amaya Architects. They and the other six applicants have been informed of the action.

The Selectmen have written us on December 19th, via copies presented to us by First Selectman Michael Criss, summarizing and clarifying our role and their expectations relative to that role. We should focus on just getting the house up while anticipating the uses planned by HHS in order to get the site and utilities right. They stressed their expectation of a year round facility, suggesting it might serve as a sort of welcome center that would open up other possible grants. They stressed the need for historical integrity in the rebuilding.

Dick Pacholski questioned what will happen if we don't have enough money to complete the project. Roger suggested we may define stages of the project and undertake what we can. Carol Bramley commented the grants from her Trust and CT preservation Trust are for this purpose – to have the architect explore the future plans and outline options.

HHS formally presented their wish list for the house including an update aimed at defining the septic system maximum loads under their planned usage.

Donations to date directly to the Town are \$615. In addition we have the \$25,000 pledged by HHS and we have approximately \$70,000 left in the STEAP grant. The grant from GLPT, if successfully matched by CT Preservation Trust, will add \$23,000. The recent appeal by HHS has collected \$4,745, \$1,015 of it designated for the Harwinton House and \$3,210 for either the house or HHS, at HHS discretion.

Regarding HPTAG, our pre-application was approved; Roger, Carol Bramley and Candace are working on preparation of the formal application. All necessary paperwork should be in Candace's hands at least one week before the February 1 deadline.

Consensus was that the first meeting with the architect, which will be scheduled for January 16, should include a spokesman from HHS.

Carol Bramley informed that GLPT will fund \$12,500 as soon as CPT approval is received, and at that time CPT will advance half of their commitment, the other half to be funded upon our completion of the work in the application. She thinks we can go ahead with hiring Amaya but suggests we verify that with Greg Farmer, and also see if Amaya will begin work without a formal contract.

Roger will join Mike at a meeting with Roy Gilley next week. Mike will ask Amaya to attend our Jan. 16 meeting.

On a motion by Tom Rotondo and second by Peter the meeting was adjourned at 8:27 PM.

Submitted by Larry Connors, Secretary

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