

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

January 11, 2012

A meeting of the Harwinton House Committee was held on Wednesday, January 11, 2012 in the West Conference Room.

Chairman Roger Plaskett called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. All members listed on the letterhead were in attendance except for Tom Rotondo, Nancy Schnyer and Keith Golnik.

The minutes of the December 14th meeting were approved on a motion by Brian Dunbar, seconded by Larry Connors.

First Selectman Mike Criss was present to explain his thoughts regarding the future of the Harwinton House Committee. He explained that while it had been his intention to transfer control of the committee to the historical society, subsequent meetings and conversations have led him to maintain the committee on a "status quo" basis. He assured the group that all moneys allocated in the original STEAP grant would be applied to the Harwinton House reassembly but no additional STEAP grant money would be used for that purpose. He also announced that he would support and assist efforts to procure preservation and restoration grants that the town may be eligible for. Committee

member Dick Pacholski, who is also the newly elected president of the historical society, reported that the society anticipated having difficulty applying for grants that they as a 501c3 are eligible for without having an agreement with the town in place. He requested that Mr. Criss make Town Attorney Mike Rybak available for a future meeting of the committee to explain in general terms how that might come about. Mr. Criss will attempt to make Mr. Rybak available for the next meeting of the committee on Wednesday, January 25.

Chairman Roger Plaskett read the DECD report for December and offered to continue to provide the completed report to Mr. Criss for his signature. Mr. Criss agreed to continue that practice.

Roger also read a letter from the Board of Selectman regarding the site recommendation from the committee which the selectmen had approved, subject to a correction identifying the first site as west of town hall and the second as northeast of the library. Roger will follow up with Stansfield Environmental Services for the correction.

Roger read an email he sent to consultant Greg Farmer requesting names of specific restoration grants that would be available to the town.

Larry Connors reported that he recently reconfirmed with the Bristol Water Company that we have permission to retrieve a small number of stones from the original fireplace which would be incorporated into the rebuilt house. We will, however, have to wait until the spring to retrieve the stones due to the company's requirement that they accompany us during their normal weekday working hours.

The spending matrix has not changed since the last meeting. Roger confirmed with Mr. Criss that we are set up to receive electronic fund transfers from the state for STEAP grant expenditures but we have not yet received any funds.

Dick Pacholski reported that the historical society held a special Board of Director's meeting for the purpose of addressing preferences and concerns regarding the Harwinton House. In addition to the concern regarding their ability to apply for grants, he reported that the society wanted to continue on the path of becoming sole tenants of the house. The society prefers that the town end up owning the house with the town leasing it to the society for \$1 a year. They also prefer a full function house as opposed to a "living museum" approach because they would like the museum to be opened year round and they would like the society's offices within the building. Also, document storage requirements would probably call for a controlled environment. The society approves of the recommended location and would like the planning to include space to eventually move the one room schoolhouse and the barn museum to the same area. The society had significant concerns regarding transferring committee control to them but that concern is mute as long as the control remains in the hands of the town. Dick emphasized that these were preferences and not demands.

Larry Connors presented a draft of an RFP (Request for Proposal) to provide engineering services to accomplish a feasibility study and provide a project plan, necessary drawings and documentation to enable our committee to rebuild the "Harwinton House" on a site owned by the Town of Harwinton, west of the Town Hall. The draft requested two options, a living museum and a full function enlarged building. The committee decided to request a full function option only since the "living museum" option could be accomplished by removing features of the full function option. Larry also agreed to lay a footprint of the building on a preliminary site map which he will prepare. Further discussion led to the possibility that private land to accommodate the house might be required or desirable and whether the committee should open conversation, as a courtesy, with the adjacent land owner

sooner rather than later regarding that possibility. The consensus was sooner and Larry agreed to contact the owner regarding that possibility.

A question regarding whether the STEAP money had to be spent within five years or if the house had to be built within five years was tabled pending further review.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 on a motion by Peter Thierry, seconded by Larry Connors.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Pacholski, Secretary