

Harwinton House Committee

Minutes of Meeting

July 16, 2012

The regular meeting of the Harwinton House Committee was held in the west meeting room of Town Hall on Monday, July 16, 2012.

After establishing a quorum chairman Roger Plaskett called the meeting to order at 7:02PM. Present were Roger Plaskett, Peter Thierry, Carole Romano, Brian Dunbar, Tom Rotondo, Nancy Schnyer, Tom Schoenemann and Larry Connors. Also in attendance were Candace Jones-Pacholski and Dick Pacholski representing Harwinton Historical Society and First Selectman Michael Criss.

Minutes of the July 2nd meeting were approved on a motion by Peter and second by Carole.

On a motion by Peter and second by Carole, Larry was selected to fill the vacant Secretary position.

Candace distributed notes she had prepared regarding an additional available grant for survey and planning purposes. She has met with Laura Mancuso who administers these reimbursement grants. The target would be to cover architect fees. We must define our parcel within the Town's property, most likely minimizing the commitment, and ensure the architect we select is from the DECD chosen list. A prerequisite is to award our pending site plan contract. There was concern over the restrictions against change under these grants but Candace was assured Ms. Mancuso would handle such requests. Consensus was in favor of utilizing this grant and Candace was requested to pursue further.

Michael reported we have made contact with Steven Cotton and just received word Cotton will locate the old A-2 survey and will supply it to the Town at no charge.

Roger reported he has had recent correspondence with Randall Chilton who suggested Roger should write to Mrs. York who owned the House before the Chiltons. It is believed she has the fourth watercolor of the House as well as the 1931 plans of the structure.

Roger and Larry recently visited the original site of the Graves house with a tractor and removed four foundation stones, with permission of Bristol Water Company, to be used as a symbolic and historic tribute during reconstruction. The stones now reside temporarily behind Larry's garage. Larry expressed appreciation for John Fredsall's contribution, the use of his personal truck and trailer to transport the tractor.

Paperwork is now complete and prepared for mailing on July 17 to obtain reimbursement for expenses to date.

Michael presented three responses to our RFP regarding preparation of a site plan. They were opened and scored by each committee member as follows:

Duke Moore AIA Architect received July 3rd opened at 7:49 PM

Bailey and Johnson Architects received July 2nd opened at 8:18 PM

Maier Design Group received June 29th opened at 8:32 PM


Tom Rotondo motioned to reject all three proposals on the grounds our required scope of work was not met in any of the proposals. Brian seconded, discussion ensued and the vote was unanimous in support of the motion. A key point of the discussion was that separating site work from architectural planning created an unintentional disconnect, and that combining these would lead to a unified and more controllable plan. It was acknowledged that this would negate our ability to seek the aforementioned grant for architectural planning. Roger appointed a subcommittee of Tom Rotondo, Brian and Larry to quickly prepare a request for resubmittal from the three bidders, said resubmittal to be comprehensive in nature to include all aspects of site engineering as well as architectural work. Michael committed a meeting room and a secretary to the effort. They will meet Monday, July 23 at 9 AM.

Dick reported there will be a presentation ceremony on August 10th to award the Harwinton Historical Society's check to the Town. In addition HSS is preparing its annual appeal and will hold a fundraising dinner.

Next meetings will be held on August 7, August 15, September 4 and September 19 per our new arrangement of first Tuesday and third Wednesday.

On motion by Tom Schoenemann and second by Carole the meeting was adjourned at 9:11 PM.

Submitted by Larry Connors, Secretary

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Larry Connors".