

Minutes of the 1835 Town Hall Committee

May 20, 2015

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The meeting opened at 6:05 pm at the 1835 Town Hall building. Members present were Bob Jones, Ron Pichierri, Danielle Ray, and Joann Drown. Vern Gaw, who has resigned from the Committee, also attended.

The committee is invited to attend the Selectmen's meeting tonight at 7:30 pm.

Danielle stated that she will make a note on our Facebook page that we are looking for new members.

Danielle made a motion, seconded by Joann, to accept the Recorder's report as corrected. The motion passed 3-0.

Members of the committee have been looking, unsuccessfully as of now, for the bunting that has decorated the building on previous Memorial Days.

We have no Treasurer's report.

Bob mentioned that the last payment for the window work has not been recorded. Ron will check.

Danielle made a motion, seconded by Ron, to pay the invoices from Tom Rutherford that include Robichaud Painting for \$5,500, Sherwin Williams paint for \$881.42, ladders etc. Purchased at Home Depot for \$863.00, all for the south side paint and repair project, money to come from the Revolving account. This will reimburse Tom Rutherford's credit cards. The committee voted 4-0 in favor of this motion.

There was a short discussion about the Revolving account.

Vern mentioned that he had called around to several sources to access pricing for placing guards on the new cellar windows. He stated that lexan would be the material used. Danielle made a motion, seconded by Ron, to have Vern purchase and install lexan guards on the windows, spending up to \$240.00. The motion passed 4-0.

Danielle made a motion, seconded by Ron, to allow Kristen to spend up to \$100.00 for plants to decorate the outside of the building. The motion passed 4-0.

The Committee discussed the '1835 Town Hall Advisory Report'.

The committee discussed Memorial Day activities at the 1835 building. Danielle made a motion, seconded by Bob, to spend up to \$100.00 for refreshments. Vern volunteered to provide cold water, and Joann volunteered to provide food. The motion passed 4-0.

Bob read into the record the following:

SEP28 15 8:33AM

“It is with sorrow and regret that we must now congratulate Vern Gaw and publicly acknowledge his personal contribution to the 1835 Town Hall. We acknowledge his unrelenting efforts and gift of time, money, knowledge and his deep sense of care towards the preservation and repurposing of this great building.

In 1999, as one of our most concerned citizens, vern was instrumental in creating the Old Town Hall Committee, now the 1835 Town Hall Committee. He served as Chairman for more than 15 years navigating a rough ocean of changing faces, politics, personalities, opposition and ever growing financial constraints. He has sifted through countless studies, research material, books and grant opportunities. His mild manner and disposition has afforded this Committee great support in the community.

His contribution to this committee and the Town of Sterling cannot be overstated. He has been steadfast in his resolve to see our Old Town Hall restored to its original beauty and character. Vern should stand proud in the light of Ebenezer Pope who donated the land for the Town Hall, architect John Springer who designed and built this building and Edwin Conant who gave the Town Hall dedicatory address.

The Town Hall has stood as a central focal point for our community for one-hundred-eighty years and is not the community center it was when it was dedicated in 1835 and Vern has played an integral role in protecting and preserving its legacy for generations to come. For this, we, the 1835 Town Hall Committee, are eternally grateful.”

Ron asked that we send a letter of thank you to the Sheriff’s people for their excellent work painting the exterior of the south side.

Bob questioned if there would be a problem for committee members to become officers of a Friends organization, and the answer is yes. Committee members can be members of the Friends, but cannot hold office.

Ron opened the floor for nominations: Bob for Chairman, Danielle for Co-Chairman, Joann for Recorder, and Danielle nominated Ron for Treasurer. The committee voted 4-0 in favor of the slate.

Mr. Barwise will become a member.

Danielle mentioned a brass plaque stating ‘Site of the first Town Hall in Worcester County: this building erected in 1835’. She will research the cost of such a plaque.

Bob stated that we will meet on June 17, 2015.

Ron made a motion that we adjourn the meeting, Danielle 2nd the motion, and the committee adjourned at 7:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Joann Drown, Recorder