

Minutes of the Sterling Town Hall Committee  
June 28, 2004

The meeting opened at 6:30 p.m.

Members present were Vern Gaw, Cynthia Secord, Ken Stidsen, Ron Pichierri, and Joann Drown.

There was no treasurer's report. The revolving account has \$85.00 as of 6/28/04.

The recorders report of May 10 was read and accepted on a motion made by Cynthia, and seconded by Ken.

Vern presented an estimate from Paul Bartel for painting the town hall. The cost to paint the front of the building would be \$7,000, and the Maple St. side, \$8,000, for a total of \$15,000. Vern reported that he talked to Tim Bragan about the cost of the estimate, and Tim suggested that the committee plan to paint all 4 sides of the building at the same time. Painting 4 sides or only 2 sides will make it necessary to go out to bid the project. Vern stated that we do not need to make the decision tonight, since further research needs to be done, such as:

1. The need for municipalities to pay prevailing wages.
2. Investigating Ken's suggestion of contacting the Mass. Dept. of Engineers regarding a pool of Vendors, minority workers, who can be awarded the contract. The Dept. of Engineers must first inspect and approve the project.
3. We need to do more research about the problems involving hand scraping, which can result in lead paint problems.
4. Vern estimates the total cost to paint the building to be above \$30,000, possibly as high as \$40,000.

It looks doubtful, with the above described problems, that we will be able to paint the building in 2004. Vern will meet with the selectmen on June 30, to advise them of the current situation, and find out when we can present an article for consideration at a future Town Meeting. We are mindful of the public, as many have stated that they would like to see progress soon. Vern would like another committee member to assist him. Since Vern received only one contractor's estimate, and he asked for responses from several other contractors, Joann asked if a new request to paint all sides at once would appeal to more contractors.

Ron suggested we consider using pre-painted clapboards to avoid scraping problems, etc. Vern and Cindy objected to that plan, as it would defeat the objective of keeping the building as original as possible.

Vern will contact Daigle about the installation of the upper left corner porch molding.

Vern stated that we need to further research ADA (American with Disabilities Act) guidelines about handicap access to the building, and the legality of using the second floor, which has no handicap access. Vern stated that Tim said private groups can legally use the second floor. Ken stated that the ramp in the back of the building is ok for now, since the ramp is close to the handicap parking slot. This is easier than trying to make the front entrance handicap usable at this time. Cindy stated that when the building is completely renovated, there will be an elevator in the back corner of the building that will have ground level access to all floors.

Vern stated that the town auction was not successful, since very few items sold. The huge quantity of library shelving did not sell, other than a few wooden bookcases. Cindy volunteered to see Pat Campbell about this situation, since the Fire Dept. will be using the building soon, and they need the room in which the shelves are stored. She will also ask Pat about the bubbler situation, the dirty rug on the main floor, the holes in the walls, and the items left in the basement. Vern also stated that the Conant chairs were erroneously advertised in the auction ad. These cannot be sold, since they belong to the Town, and the Historical Commission is responsible for them.

Vern stated that the furnaces need to be cleaned, and he will contact the usual Company that does this work. He said the cost will be approximately \$135.00 for each furnace.

Vern stated that the side door has become water soaked, and the crash bar and lock look like they have been disturbed.

Cindy showed us wonderful photos of the Town Hall, taken during an early 1900's Cattle Show, depicting the second floor of the building with all the exhibits displayed. Another photo shows the outside of the building in the 1950's. The committee discussed another building in Lubec, Maine, designed the Springer, who was the architect of Sterling town hall.

Vern stated that Judy Janda will do town hall bookings on a desk blotter calendar.

The grant status, under the supervision of the Historical Commission, is unchanged. Vern reported that he will again attempt to contact the Mass. Historical and ask for current status of the grant for the preservation study.

Vern presented a thank you note from Christina Davidson, in which she stated how pleased she was to hold her successful event in the Town Hall Community Center.

The bubbler, which was removed from the town hall at the library director's direction, has disappeared. The cost of a new bubbler will be approximately \$1,000. Ken volunteered to check with wholesalers for the cost of the needed replacement, possibly a used bubbler.

New Business:

The committee decided to meet on July 17, at 9 p.m., to clean around the building.

Our next meeting will be July 26, 2004, at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Joann K. Drown, Recorder.