

**Minutes of the 1835 Town Hall Committee  
July 26, 2004**

The meeting opened at 6 p.m.

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

The recorder's report was read and accepted with 3 corrections, on a motion made by Ron and seconded by Roland.

Cindy nominated Roland Nelson for treasurer, and the committee voted unanimously in favor of the nomination. The treasurer's records will be given to Roland as soon as possible, and Vern will work with Roland to bring him up to date on previous transactions. Vern will continue as Chairperson, and Joann as recorder.

Vern proceeded to up-date the committee on the grant status and changes. The amount of the grant has been increased to \$10,000. This amount will allow an enlarged scope, and will include preliminary design work. The grant may be amended to include the Town Hall Committee along with the Sterling Historical Commission. Plans should be in hand for the committees to prepare for the May 2005 Annual Town Meeting.

Members of this committee need to go to a regular selectmen's meeting soon, to explain the grant changes, and ask for an article, or articles, be put on the warrant of a special town meeting.

A representative of the Massachusetts Historical Commission, Carol Dininno, will provide a list of preservation architects for the planning project. Ms. Dininno will be here tomorrow, 7/27, at 1 p.m. Any member of this committee may attend this meeting.

Vern presented pictures of the church in Lubec, Maine, that is approximately 14 years older than Sterling's town hall building, and built by the same builder.

Cindy asked if Barry Chase, of Princeton Road, could be invited to join this committee. She believes he has a great deal of experience restoring historical buildings.

All committee members who have not previously done so, need to get up-dated committee member cards at the municipal building.

Cindy reported that she met with Pat Campbell, with the following results.

1. Peter Watson will fill the holes in the walls.
2. Pat will have the rug in the main room cleaned.
3. Bob Janda is supposed to replace the missing bubbler.
4. All shelving will be gone.
5. Mr. Davis is to take the band instruments.
6. Pat will remove the rest of the library's items still in the cellar.
7. Pat mentioned that because of a town by-law, she could not dispose of library property until after the town auction in May.

Painting update: Vern is still waiting for Tim to provide prevailing wage guidelines.

The cellar door crash bar has been repaired by Vern. Vern hopes this door can be eliminated at restoration.

Ken has started work researching ADA guidelines. So far he has found that the second floor can be used by private groups as long as no member of the group is handicapped. He will continue to research the ADA guidelines, and also research availability of federal grant money to provide handicapped access to the building, and an elevator.

Building bookings will be handled by Judy Janda soon.

Vern thanked members of the committee for cleaning up the outside of the building on July 17. Roland will talk to the DPW about disposing of the brush gathered under the fire escape.

Members discussed using the town web site to explain future renovation plans, and show interesting historical pictures. Barry Lein is the person to see about the site.

The Historical Society is anxious to be rid of a 700 to 800 lb. town scale. Vern proposed putting it in the hall of this building. Vern also proposed hanging the portrait of Lord Sterling in the hall.

The next committee meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m., August 30, 2004.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Joann Drown, Recorder.