

Minutes of the 1835 Town Hall Committee

June 21, 2017

The meeting opened at 6:32 pm at the 1835 Town Hall Building. Members present were Bob Jones, Dave Gibbs, Ron Pichierri, Rob Barwise, Carl Corrinne and Joann Drown. Also present were Christine McCarthy and Jack Chandler, who both want to be a member of our Committee, and Maureen Cranson, Selectwoman.

Maureen stated that Rich Lane and Ross Perry are not able to attend the meeting tonight. Everett Heller was also expected, but he also is not able to attend.

Dave made a motion, seconded by Ron, to accept the Recorder's report as corrected. The motion passed 6-0.

Bob stated that the Revolving Account shows a balance of \$1,404.49. No one on the Committee has been reimbursed from the Warrant sent to the Treasurer on May 3, 2017. Maureen stated that the payment to Bob and Joann have been put on hold because the Auditor and Mr. Perry have indicated that the Revolving Account is not to be used for the purposes stated in the Warrant. Maureen also stated that our Open House has been deemed a political event and that is another reason not to pay Bob and Joann.

Roof Project: The roof project has been split into 3 categories.

1. Demolition.
2. Selection of Designer and Project manager.
3. Actual project

Maureen stated that the selectmen thought that we needed more people on the Building Sub Committee, so that the 1835 Committee could work on other things, such as septic, obtaining Grants, and establishing a Friends Organization. The people the selectmen chose were Jack Chandler and Everet Heller. Maureen stated that Dave needs to work on Grants. Dave stated that he has put in

hundreds of hours on this project, but he senses that that isn't enough. That the extra people being on the building sub-committee infers that the Committee's work is not enough, or deficient. Dave also stated that Mr. Heller is one of our opponents, so how is that going to add to our status? Maureen stated that Mr. Heller would be a "Watch Dog". Dave stated that our "Watch Dog" is already Maureen herself. Maureen stated that our Committee, which consists of 7 people, cannot possibly do all the work required. Dave stated that he feels so disrespected for the time he has already spent so that the Town has saved money as through his reasearch.

Maureen stated that the 1835 Committee's misuse of funds in the past has led to the Selectmen wanting to add people to the building sub-committee. When pressed by Carl, Maureen stated that when the new furnaces were purchased by our Committee, it was done wrong. Ron stated that we had 2 formal bids and one verbal, so our Committee took the lowest bid and had the work done. Bob asked when the Committee has disrespected the process. Maureen stated that this would be the Warrant request for reimbursement we have just heard. Christine suggested that adding more people would slow the project. Ron added that, for example, 2 of the 3 people who would be on the building sub-committee are not here tonight. Rob stated that he will not be a part of the new building sub-committee. He will continue to serve on the 1835 Town Hall Committee.

Dave stated that we have a building that has had an uphill battle for years, to define it's existence, make itself vital, yet it was always a building that served when there was a need. Police, Fire, Library, DPW had their quarters here while their own buildings were being renovated. This building, for the amount of money it costs and the amount of money that has been put into it, has served this town better than any other building. To that extent, we just believe that it is time to stop deferring maintenance. Get this thing fixed. Get it accessible, get it sewerred, get it sprinklered, because if you loose it, 50 years down the road some are going to say that the biggest mistake we made was to let that building go. And buildings go when you don't take care of them. They desolve before your eyes. This

Committee does not want that to happen here. That is why we have done the amount of work to get this to where we are today, and then bristle at the notion that when we get it here, now the decision making and the details that count, we are not going to be able to decide on them.

Bob stated that he wants this project to succeed. He wants the 1835 Town Hall Committee to be successful. He plans to make this happen. He does not plan to give up his lead on this.

Jack stated that he is happy to have Bob lead the project, and he will support the project.

Maureen left to attend another meeting.

Bob stated that we are in phase 2 of the septic project, where we will now do the digging.

Bob stated that when he met with Ross Perry, they discussed when the Recreation Dept. would move from this building during demolition.

AAB variance: Bob sent letters to Ross, Matt Moro, ADA, and Sarah Culgin, Building Commissioner, but has not heard back from Sarah. Bob explained what has happened in regards to accessibility for Jack's benefit.

Dave discussed Grant funding.

Ron made a motion, seconded by Bob, to vote to add Christine McCarthy as our 7th Committee member. The Committee voted unanimously in favor of Christine, 6-0.

Bob made a motion, seconded by Ron, to add 2 more people to our Committee, which would increase the total number on the Committee to 9. The Committee voted in favor of this motion 6-0.

Bob mentioned that Sterling is one of 270 towns that have joined the Governor's new project that will focus on accessibility for all town buildings.

Ron stated that he is uncomfortable being the member of the Committee clearly disrespected by the Selectmen on several occasions.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Our next meeting will be July 19, 2017.

Ron made a motion, seconded by Rob, to adjourn the meeting. The Committee voted 6-0 to adjourn at 7:37 pm.

Respectfully submitted

Joann Drown, Recorder