

Nelson Buildings: Fundraising Committee

Minutes - October 26, 2013

Attendees: Sandy Mackenzie, Susan Hansel, Susan Kingsbury, Maury Collins, Susan Peery, Gordon Peery, Linda Cates, Michael Cornog, Mary Cornog.

Absent: Lisa Sieverts, Mary Shonk, Betsy Street

Next Meeting: Saturday, 9 AM, Nov. 9, Old School House (Town Offices)

Action Items

- Maury will explore the question of whether or not people can give in this calendar year if they are so inclined.
- Susan Hansel will send a letter to the Putnam Foundation.
- Mary Cornog and Susan Peery will attend the Buildings Committee meeting Monday night.
- Communication Committee will have draft cases for support and fact sheets for our next meeting.
- Gordon will report back about Monadnock Folklore Society's plans.
- Susan Peery will check the Grapevine schedule.

Minutes

Someone explained that the Trustees of the Trust Fund would set up a special fund for this project into which donations will be accepted. Maury wondered whether this could be done this year in case anyone wanted to give this year.

It may be that some people may specify what their donation is to be used for, Town Hall or Library basement, or more specific.

Susan Hansel mentioned that Jack Bradshaw gave funds for the new fire truck.

Susan Hansel also reported that two LCHIP representatives came to look at our building project. It was the executive director and Amy, who is our contact. Neither will have a vote on the project. They will present it to the Board of Governors. They felt our project had merit. They were very knowledgeable and understood our process. They liked that we have reached out to Historic Harrisville and feel that we are making informed choices. In addition to Town Hall, they saw the Library basement and the archives, where Rick and Dave were working. They next went to Wyman Tavern in Keene. There are 74 applicants for \$8.2 Million over 2 years. They were

very positive about our project, but there are so many good applicants, there is no guarantee. They said to keep them informed as the project progresses.

Susan Hansel will write a letter to the Putnam Foundation. Linda and Sandy will review and sign. Someone suggested that Michael Iselin might also sign the letter. Sandy asked that the initial letter go ASAP. A follow up letter will be as specific as possible.

The architect provided an updated list of priorities. The numbers are still \$250,000 for Town Hall and \$100,000 for the Library. There is a Building Committee meeting Monday night at 6 PM with the architect and perhaps new numbers will be provided then. Susan Peery and Mary Cornog will attend that meeting. The Donor Committee feels that the current estimate may be low and so added \$50,000. There is \$296 in the Capital Reserve Fund, \$196 of which is Geddes money that must be spent. The selectmen would like to keep at least \$50,000 in Capital Reserve for emergencies. The Fundraising Committee's target is \$150,000, less any LCHIP amount.

There has been an indication that the Monadnock Folklore Society will raise funds for a sound system and/or lighting. Gordon will find out their plans and report back.

Susan Hansel raised the question of whether or not the Historic Harrisville archives might be willing to accept our archives.

Susan Hansel said that Dave Upton reported that the mechanical engineer has come up with an idea to cool the Library and Town Hall using ambient air. The structural engineer has reported that the roof is bowed, not broken. He was asked to go back and look again and give an estimate.

Someone asked what we will do if the Town doesn't approve funding. 11% of our population is below poverty level and real estate taxes are of real concern. We could use a bond of \$100,000, although that is not desirable.

Caucus is five weeks before Town Meeting.

Gordon said that we need drawings soon. We need visuals. Someone else said that this is not a glamorous project.

The Selectmen voted to hire a construction manager for the Town Hall project, but not the Library. A local person could bid on the Library.

The Building Committee will hold a public meeting in November.

Susan Peery presented questions that the Communication Committee had. Consensus was that there will be separate case statements and separate fact sheets for the Town Hall and Library Basement projects. The brochure will cover both projects. The brochure will not be needed until January 1st.

Susan Peery asked what audience and what tone for each document. Answer: we will be soliciting everyone in town as we want everyone to feel part of this project and to participate. The documents should answer the question "Why?" "Why should we care?" It should tell the story and make people care. Susan Hansel mentioned, for example, that we have records going back to 1775 that need to be stored safely. Town Hall is the school's auditorium. The brochure should be a feel good document that would include photos; local weddings in Town Hall, the children's Halloween party, the kids singing Christmas carols in Town Hall.

Communication will have a draft of the cases for support and fact sheets for the next meeting. Susan Kingsbury will be in Utah and will design by email.

The point was raised that some recent Town decisions seem to be moving at cross purposes to the raising of funds for these projects. For example, the new policy on Town Hall rental seems to make it more difficult to rent Town Hall. An explanation was that maintenance has been deferred. Parking rules are being imposed on us under a writ of mandamus. We do not want to issue parking tickets, as they are \$144. There has to be a policeman in attendance if there are 75 or more people, at a cost of \$39 per hour. There is the cost of heating and lighting. It was felt that it would behoove the Selectmen to review the new policy on the use of Town Hall. We want to raise money for a building that we can use. Remember the Safety Building.

The parking issues was raised as was the issue of lighting behind the Library. The lighting behind the Library is temporary until the architect comes up with a design that includes lighting.

The Donor Committee met and is forming a list of askers. The Donor Committee is considering naming opportunities.

Timeline

November - we will know the dollar amount of the project.

Mid November - we will have draft cases for support and fact sheets.

The Communication Committee will get an article in the next Grapevine.
All material except the brochure needs to be ready by Dec. 15
The brochure needs to be ready by Jan. 1.

Next Meetings:

Saturday, November 9, 9 AM, Town Offices.
Saturday, November 23, 9 AM, Town Offices
Saturday, December 7, 9 AM, Town Offices