

Old Meetinghouse Revitalization (OMRC) Meeting Minutes
April 17, 2019
6:00 PM
Epsom Public Library

Committee present: Deb Sargent, Val Long, Chuck Driesbach, Norm Yeaton, Meadow Wysocki, Virginia Drew

Public present: Justin Coulter, Cheryl Gilpatrick, Penny and Bruce Graham, Nada Haddad

The Old Meetinghouse Revitalization Committee meets to continue efforts to bring the Old Meetinghouse up to code for occupancy so it may be utilized as a community space. It is the goal of the committee to finance the effort through fundraising without utilizing taxpayer dollars.

I. Review and Adoption of April 3, 2019 Minutes

Chuck made a motion to accept the March 20, 2019 minutes with amendments, seconded by Norm. Val made a motion to accept the April 3, 2019 minutes with amendments, with a second by Meadow.

II. UNH Cooperative Extension, Rockingham County Farmers' Market Review

Nada Haddad, UNH Cooperative Extension Agricultural representative described her position with UNH Cooperative Extension in regard to farmers' markets statewide. She is housed in the Rockingham County Cooperative Extension office. We as a group would need to form an organization. At this point, we probably not offer EBT at the farmers' market as it is more complicated than we are prepared for at this time. Nada recommends that vendors have proof of their own insurance. Vendors pay a membership fee and may pay a fee each week. We may need promotional flyers and a reminder sign out front. Need to have bylaws, food safety laws from NH Health and Human Services,¹ and some farmers' markets are LLC's. Nada recommended that we talk to other farmers' markets for additional information. She also recommended we could consider having one in July and August. Justin mentioned that there is a lot of interest in Town. Bathrooms are another issue. Could rent a handicapped porta-potty or use the Old Town Hall. Have to have everyone set up about 30 minutes ahead of opening. Virginia asked how many volunteers it would take to set it up, and Nada said probably more than one depending on the number of vendors. Many farmers' markets accept only a certain number of each type of product. We could send a press release for Gail McWilliam Jellie at the NH Department of Agriculture to put in the Weekly Market Bulletin. There is also a Suncook Valley Monitor we could advertise in. NH Employment Security has a demographic sheet on Epsom. Another way to promote the farmers' market is with parents of school children through Epsom Central.

We also talked about the traffic going by the Library and Meetinghouse, and it was noted that about 50,000 people/day go through Epsom on Route 4.

¹ Food safety modernization act

III. Fundraising Discussion

We briefly discussed the fact that the email postcard went out to the list of emails we have accumulated. These names need to be reviewed by committee members to add names of people missing from the list.

IV. Civil War Re-enactment in Epsom Presented by Bruce Graham

Bruce Graham shared that the meetinghouse is a civil war church. There is a civil war re-enactment that he had been involved with in South Carolina (the 2nd South Carolina String Band). Bruce wondered if this group could come to the meetinghouse for this event. The committee recommended that this re-enactment could be done in the Old Town Hall or Webster Park on Friday night of Old Home Days (August 9th).

IV. Construction and Building Needs

Chuck handed out a revised facility construction budget.

V. Planning Building and Spring Clean-up Dates Other

Norm and Chuck reported that the benches will go downstairs in the basement to ready the first floor for clean up. The the floor needs to be cleaned up. Other debris needs to be removed. Chuck went to Nancy Wheeler to get the form for stuff from the meetinghouse that needs to go to the transfer station. Norm brought up that he and Chuck sorted out the types of material that they want to keep and what will be discarded. The idea was brought forth that Scott Elliott may be interested in some of these materials, and that he should be contacted.

Once the clean-up is done, need to address the structure under the foyer. Chuck will determine what the issue is and let us know. We wondered if we need a structural engineer? Once that is done can start framing, drywall, etc.

Meadow mentioned that elementary and high school students that need community service hours to help. The schools will be contacted.

Norm made a motion that the meeting be adjourned, seconded by Meadow. The meeting ended at 8:12 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Val Long