

Old Meetinghouse Revitalization (OMRC) Meeting Minutes
May 1, 2019
6:00 PM
Epsom Public Library

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

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 17, 2019 Minutes

Chuck made a motion to accept the April 17, 2019 minutes, seconded by Norm.

II. Update on UNH Cooperative Extension, Rockingham County Farmers' Market

Committee members discussed the feasibility of going forward with having a Farmer's Market in front of the Meetinghouse. The consensus was that this endeavor would be more than our small committee can take on at this time and we will continue to concentrate our efforts on fundraising and work on the Meetinghouse.

III. Civil War Reenactment Presentation/Bruce Graham

Virginia stated that she had contacted the Old Home Day committee in regards to the suggestion at the last meeting to perhaps have the Civil War musical performance on Friday night of Old Home Day weekend. She had also spoken with Bruce Graham and in their conversation they felt that the Civil War performance should be held at the Meetinghouse. They also noted that having a full event that could perhaps include Tim Patterson (Civil War presenter), an encampment, and musical performance of the professional group. She proposed that the fall would be a good time to try to do this and perhaps the building would have enough done to get an event approved. Chuck will contact Bruce to meet with Joel French, as this plan would need approval of the town officials.

IV. Fundraising Discussion

Debbie and Val gave an overview of their visit to the Canaan Meetinghouse. They spoke with people who worked on their Meetinghouse project and learned how they handled the fundraising and renovations. Interesting to note, their building still does not have heat! Deb explained that their fundraising involved identifying and meeting with affluent residents and targeting certain businesses. Val shared information regarding our recent fundraising efforts and showed that the business mailings had not brought the return we had hoped to see. The email postcards did not do well either and the committee members expressed their disappointment with this latest effort. Committee members discussed the need to move forward with a different focus and to have each

member create a listing of organizations, residents and businesses that they have a personal connection with to have a more focused fund raising effort.

Each committee member has been tasked with creating a list of organizations, businesses and residents that they would be able to contact. It was decided that the next meeting would be a work session to merge the lists and look at a plan to move forward with fundraising.

Also under fundraising, Val reported that she had attended a workshop training session for applying for LCHIP grants. She explained that if you apply for a grant less than \$50,000 there is no requirement for a historical study and the stewardship would only last 5 years. The committee agreed that this would be worthwhile.

Debbie noted that the Canaan committee had a “message” to help get their building approved as well as for funding. There was discussion about a potential message for our committee and Virginia suggested “Building Community” as it defines what we are trying to create with a community building. Virginia also noted that she is working to get the Epsom Historical Association to regroup and to see about working with them to do crowd funding.

Debbie is reaching out to professional sports teams to seek with fundraising and there was much more discussion regarding changing our tactics for getting donations.

IV. Construction and Building Plans

Chuck and Norman are continuing with their efforts to clean out the building. They noted that carpet and pews have been removed from the right side of the main floor. There is still a lot of work to do and there was discussion to get volunteers to assist. Norman will be asking for a dumpster donation from Ponderosa Enterprises to expedite the trash removal. It was decided to have a work day on Sat. May 18 from 9:00 am until noon with workers bringing gloves and dust masks.

V. Other Business

Val has written the Quarterly Report and Chuck reviewed it. He will email it out to the committee.

Reminder to all to bring their lists for the work session for fundraising.

The next meeting will be on May 15, 2019 at 6:00 pm.

Chuck made a motion that the meeting be adjourned, seconded by Val. The meeting ended at 7:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia J Drew