

Old Allenstown Meeting House Committee

April 18, 2017

6:00 P.M. Allenstown Police Department

Meeting Minutes

Present: James Garvin, Roland Martel, Jason Tardiff (Selectmen's Representative), Armand Verville (chair), Claudette Verville.

1. Chairman Armand Verville called the meeting to order at 6:10 P.M.
2. On a motion by Roland Martel, seconded by Claudette Verville, the minutes of the meeting of April 26, 2016, were approved as submitted with Jason Tardiff abstaining.
3. The committee welcomed Jason Tardiff as the designated representative of the Board of Selectmen to the Old Allenstown Meeting House Committee.
4. The committee received and reviewed the Town of Allenstown's 2017 budget (Account Number 01.4619.10) for the Old Allenstown Meeting House. The total budget allocation of \$1,300.00 remains the same as in 2016. A few internal line items have been altered due to changes in utility costs, etc.
5. Chairman Armand Verville distributed a letter from Raymond James Trust presenting a grant of \$500.00 from the Richard and Laurel Vrabcak Foundation, Laurel Vrabcak, and Richard Vrabcak to the Allenstown Historical Society on behalf of the Vrabcaks' cousin, Barbara Yakkey. Barbara Yakkey grew up on Podunk Road and had deep affection for the neighborhood.
6. The committee discussed the receipt on March 15, 2017 of a stipend of \$200 from the New Hampshire Land and Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP) for the timely submission of the required annual Historic Resources Monitoring Report to LCHIP and the New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources. Chairman Armand Verville noted that this was the final report required under the LCHIP term stewardship agreement. The easement was applied to the meeting house upon receipt of the LCHIP grant in 2011 and expired on May 13, 2016. LCHIP awarded a total of \$1,000 in incentive grants between 2013 and 2016. One grant was spent for loam as part of the installation of a drywell to reduce dampness under the building, leaving a balance in the account of \$800.00. Funds previously received from LCHIP in recognition of our submitting annual reports in a timely manner are non-lapsing and are earmarked for the sole needs of the meeting house. They are recorded in the town budget under "Grants," and are available for use for appropriate purposes under an existing "special exception."
7. Chairman Armand Verville distributed a report on the proposed replacement of the existing flagpole at the Old Allenstown Meeting House. The report noted the wish of the committee, first proposed by Roland Martel, to fly a flag at the meeting house permanently, in accordance with the Flag Code. Due to past thefts at the site, the only way to fly a flag securely would be to provide a pole with a lockable internal halyard.

Chairman Verville noted the death in January 2017 of Ann Hasbany, a former regent of Buntin-Rumford-Webster Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, a longtime member of the Allenstown Historical Society, and a faithful volunteer at the meeting house. He suggested that the proposed new flagpole would be a fitting memorial to Ann Hasbany, and noted that the DAR intends to make a contribution for that purpose following their annual vesper service at the building on August 6th.

The report included a comparison of three similar 30-foot fiberglass poles with internal halyards. After the committee discussed the merits of each, Roland Martel offered a motion to purchase a pole from Flag-Works over America of Concord, N. H. at a price of \$2,090.00, with the funds to come entirely from grant monies as described above, private donations, and the Allenstown Historical Society's Friends of the Old Allenstown Meeting House account; no Allenstown tax funds would be used. Secretary Jim Garvin seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

8. Armand Verville reported that the Student Conservation Association (SCA) will be assisting at the meeting house this summer. Hannah Park will be the contact person.
9. Armand and Claudette Verville discussed events that are scheduled at the Old Allenstown Meeting House for the spring/summer of 2017:
 - a. May 5: Allenstown fourth graders will make a visit.
 - b. May 28: The New Rye Church may hold a service at the building.
 - c. June: The Allenstown Board of Selectmen will hold their regular meeting at the meeting house.
 - d. June 30 (July 4th weekend): The Allenstown Historical Society will hold its annual bake sale.
 - e. August 6: Buntin-Rumford-Webster Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution will hold their annual vesper service at 4:00 p.m.

New business:

10. Town Administrator Shaun Mulholland informed Armand Verville that Roland Martel's term on the committee is ending. Roland signified his intention to serve another term.
11. Roland Martel noted that snow plowing at the front of the meeting house when the ground is not frozen destroys the lawn that has been replanted several times. The committee agrees that parking should be permitted close to the fence by people with limited mobility, but that this area should not be paved.
12. The next meeting of the committee will be at the call of the chair, as needed. Jim Garvin will send an agenda for the meeting to town administrator Shaun Mulholland if a meeting is called.
13. On a motion by Jim Garvin, seconded by Roland Martel, the meeting adjourned at 6:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
James L. Garvin
Secretary