

Old Allenstown Meeting House Committee
April 30, 2015
6:00 P.M. Allenstown Police Department

Meeting Minutes

Present: James Garvin, Roland Martel, Armand Verville, Claudette Verville, Kate Walker (Selectmen's Representative).

1. Chairman Armand Verville called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.
2. On a motion by Jim Garvin, seconded by Roland Martel, the minutes of the meeting of April 16, 2015, were approved as submitted with the correction that the name "Didget Taylor" should be changed to "Dijit Taylor."
3. Chairman Armand Verville asked James Garvin to serve as committee secretary. Garvin agreed to do so with the reservation that he serves on several other boards and may not be able to attend every meeting of the Old Allenstown Meeting House Committee.
4. Armand Verville announced that town administrator Shaun Mulholland has issued a general invitation and welcome to a groundbreaking ceremony for the future Allenstown Senior Center and Boys & Girls Club [see *Concord Monitor*, April 15, 2015] on Tuesday, June 16 at 5:30 p.m. at the Whitten Street Park in Suncook Village.
5. Roland Martel and Armand Verville reported on developments for the 200th anniversary of the Old Allenstown Meeting House, to be held on July 18th.
 - a. Janet Anderson of Buntin-Rumford-Webster Chapter, DAR, is looking for bunting for the celebration.
 - b. The dedication day will run from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., and will start with a religious observance around 9:30, followed by a talk on the history of the building by Jim Garvin. Kids' games will follow outdoors.
 - c. Armand has spoken to the Abbot-Downing Historical Society, who have agreed to display a Concord Coach during the day. Although rising insurance costs have required the Society to raise its normal rates, they will honor their former offer to exhibit the coach for a fee of \$250.00.
 - d. The Allenstown Fire Department met on April 28th to consider the proposal that they provide a cookout for the event. Since the event is not likely to attract more than 100 or 150 people and since their cookouts are fundraising efforts, the department will consider whether they wish to do this. The Old Allenstown Meeting House Committee canceled the idea of a pig roast in order not to compete with a Fire Department cookout.

- e. Armand talked with Bear Brook State Park manager Greg Preville about using some state lands for the event; Greg passed the request to Concord. The state will require a special use permit, and Armand has submitted the necessary paperwork along with a letter explaining that most of the day's activities will be on town property. Armand pointed out that the Fire Department cookout being proposed for state land will increase visitation to the Parks museum at the former CCC camp.
 - f. Doug Bailey has stated that he can't afford the insurance required to offer a tractor-drawn hayride, but that he would be happy to work as a subcontractor to Steve Fowler, who carries the required insurance as an organizer of Old Home Day.
 - g. Roland Martel mentioned the many agencies that have assisted in the preservation and restoration of the meeting house, and suggested that we invite representatives from each of them to the celebration. Jim Garvin will make a list of all such agencies that are mentioned in his files.
 - h. Claudette Verville described the items that will be in the building on July 18th. They include the portraits of Hall and Hannah Burgin, baskets for donations, a model of the building, and early clothing. There will also be a PowerPoint presentation on the restoration of the building shown on a laptop computer.
 - i. Kate Walker mentioned that she has a niece who is a teacher and will help Kate research early children's games and pastimes for the event.
 - j. Kate reported that there is interest on the Board of Selectmen in holding a simulated early selectmen's meeting in period costume. She pointed out that she could not participate since women were not eligible to vote or hold municipal office until the twentieth century. It was noted that such a meeting would have to conform to current statutes and therefore, as a mock meeting between two or more current selectmen, would have to be officially announced as a "non-meeting."
 - k. The committee discussed a press release for the event. It was noted that the Concord *Monitor* has been good about running local news, but that the *Hooksett Banner* does not always print local stories from press releases. Claudette will draft a release and the committee will review it at the next meeting.
6. Regarding the operating budget for the OAMH, there are no developments, but this item will be retained on future meeting agendas for discussion when needed.
7. Upcoming events that are presently planned for the Old Meeting House are:
 May 8- will be the 4th graders of Allenstown Elementary School where Armand and Claudette will give the students a small presentation on the Meeting House.
 May 24- New Rye Church- Armand has not heard from Rev. Jim Young yet.
 June 8- The Selectmen's Meeting.
 July 3-Allenstown Historical Bake Sale
 July 11- Wedding held at meeting house
 July 18- 200th.Celebration of the OAMH
 Aug. 2- DAR Vesper Service

Roland Martel raised the question of a written policy for the use of the meeting house. Armand replied that Allenstown has existing regulations for all town facilities, and these regulations govern the use of the OAMH. We do need to control parking on an event-by-event basis, as in the case of the wedding on July 11th.

8. Armand raised the question of whether we might want to invite Bob Killum, who presented a gratis concert at the meeting house, to give another concert. The committee agreed to inquire about this possibility. Armand will contact Mr. Killum.
9. The next meeting of the committee will be on Tuesday, May 19, 2015, at 6:00 p.m. at the Allenstown Police Department. Jim Garvin will send an agenda for the meeting to town administrator Shaun Mulholland.
10. The meeting adjourned at 6:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
James L. Garvin
Secretary