

Old Allenstown Meeting House Committee
June 9, 2015
6:00 P.M. Allenstown Police Department

Meeting Minutes

Present: James Garvin, Roland Martel, Armand Verville (chair), 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 Roland Martel, seconded by Claudette Verville, the minutes of the meeting of May 19, 2015, were unanimously approved as submitted.
3. The committee discussed elements of the 200th anniversary of the Old Allenstown Meeting House, to be held on July 18th.
 - a. The committee agreed to an expenditure of \$250 to have a Concord stagecoach provided for all-day display, weather permitting, by the Abbot-Downing Historical Society.
 - b. It was confirmed that the Allenstown Fire Association will provide a cookout during the day on July 18th.
 - c. Armand Verville has talked with Bear Brook State Park superintendent Greg Preville and is assured that the park facilities will be made available, as needed, for the celebration, even though there has not yet been official confirmation from the Concord headquarters of the New Hampshire Division of Parks and Recreation. It is expected that both the CCC Museum and the Snowmobile Museum will be open on July 18 for the celebration.
 - d. Steve Fowler has agreed to provide a tractor and offer hayrides. Steve needs a new rim for one of his tractor wheels but will soon pick up a new rim in Londonderry and will not charge for his services because this could change his liability status. The route of the ride will be along Depot Road from Deerfield Road through the CCC camp and back again.
 - e. Roland Martel and Janet Anderson are working on details of a nondenominational religious service to be held at the meeting house. Among the churches that have been or will be contacted are New Rye Church, Suncook United Methodist Church, and Sunrise Baptist Church. Also possible are the Chichester Congregational Church and the Rev. Dan Stauffacher. The service will be scheduled for 9:00 on July 18, and an hour will be reserved for the service.
 - f. The committee discussed the mock Board of Selectmen's meeting. Kate Walker suggested that the meeting might be divided into different historical periods to illustrate social changes that have occurred over time. The first period could be an all-male meeting. The second period could include voting

by women. The third period could include a woman (Kate) serving on the Board of Selectmen.

- g. The program schedule for the day was discussed and the following was suggested:
 - 9:00 Nondenominational church service
 - 10:30 Jim Garvin talk on the meeting house
 - 1:30-2:30 Bob Kilham program in the meeting house
- h. Armand Verville confirmed that Bob Kilham will provide his program for a reduced fee of \$100.
- i. Armand confirmed that Best Septic will provide a portable toilet for a fee of \$100.
- j. Roland Martel reported that bunting is now on hand for the meeting house windows. Roland will check at Flagworks in Concord for bunting for the door.
- k. Armand reported that he has a New Hampshire state flag to fly under the American flag. He has put a new halyard on the meeting house flagpole and has attached clips for both flags (see 4., below).
- l. The committee looked at a list of people who should be sent personal invitations to the event on July 18th. The list presently has about 40 names, and another 20± more will be added; Armand will work on additions to the list. A few of those listed should receive individual letters in addition to a flier advertising the anniversary event. On a motion by Jim Garvin, seconded by Roland Martel, the committee voted to authorize the purchase of a \$49.00 roll of stamps to mail the fliers and letters.
- m. Secretary Jim Garvin will draft a personal letter for those who should receive more than just a flier.
- n. Kate Walker will ask for about 100 Allenstown town envelopes and 15-20 sheets of Allenstown letterhead for the personal letters.
- o. Claudette Verville presented a draft flier for the event, which was approved in general, with thanks, and with a few suggestions for specific changes.
- p. Jim Garvin presented a draft press release which was approved in general, with a few suggestions for specific changes. Jim will make these changes and send the final version immediately to the committee by e-mail.
- q. Jim Garvin presented a draft two-sided handout, with a photograph of the building taken from the cemetery. The committee discussed the handout and suggested some changes. Jim will make these changes and send the next draft to the committee by e-mail. Armand Verville will discuss the printing of the handout with Bob Rainville of Speedy Printing in Concord.
- r. A PowerPoint show documenting the restoration of the Old Allenstown Meeting House will run from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. as a continuous loop on a laptop computer to be placed in the northwest corner of the room. The show has about 30 slides.
- s. A collection of artifacts will be exhibited at the meeting house all day, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

4. Regarding the operating budget for the Old Allenstown Meeting House, chairman Armand Verville asked for authorization to spend \$15.29 for the new halyard for the meeting house flagpole. On a motion by James Garvin, seconded by Roland Martel, the committee unanimously authorized this expenditure.
5. Armand Verville announced that he had received a reminder of 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.
6. Upcoming events that are presently planned for the Old Meeting House are:
July 3-Allenstown Historical Society Bake Sale, 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
July 18- 200th Anniversary Celebration of the OAMH, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Aug. 2- DAR Vesper Service, 4:00 p.m.

The town website for the Old Allenstown Meeting House has been updated and these events are posted there. The flier (3.o., above) will be posted on the website when it has been revised.

7. Armand and Claudette Verville passed around a photograph of a new sign they had painted and placed above the door of the meeting house to duplicate and replace a sign that appears in older photographs but disappeared years ago. The committee thanked the Vervilles for their careful and impressive work on the sign.
8. Roland Martel observed that the green enamel on the state historical marker for the meeting house is peeling. Jim Garvin noted that the paint on these signs is baked enamel, and the markers must be sent back to Sewah Studios in Marietta, Ohio, when they are refurbished. Jim will contact the person at the New Hampshire Department of Transportation who administers the placement and maintenance of these markers.
9. Roland Martel noted that the grass around the meeting house has not been mowed. Kate Walker will mention the issue.
10. The next meeting of the committee will be on Tuesday, June 30, 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.
11. The meeting adjourned at 7:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
James L. Garvin
Secretary