

Old Allenstown Meeting House Committee
May 17, 2018
6:00 P.M. Allenstown Police Department

Meeting Minutes

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

1. Chairman Armand Verville called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.
2. The committee welcomed David Eaton as the designated representative of the Board of Selectmen to the Old Allenstown Meeting House Committee.
3. On a motion by Roland Martel, seconded by Claudette Verville, the minutes of the meeting of April 18, 2017, were approved as submitted, with David Eaton abstaining.
4. Chairman Armand Verville noted that the committee is meeting to update everyone on the status of the Old Allenstown Meeting House, but that there are no pressing emergencies to deal with.
5. The committee received and reviewed the Town of Allenstown's 2018 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 2017. Chairman Verville observed that various line items in the budget are slowly increasing year-by-year, and that eventually the budget will need to be adjusted to reflect this inflation. For example, telephone/modem costs are now \$43.15 per month, or \$517.80 per year. The electric bill for the meeting house is always the minimum charge, but that charge now stands at \$19.00 per month or \$228 per year.

It was the consensus of the committee that there need not be an increase in the budget request until such time as annual expenses equal or exceed the standard annual budget of \$1,300.00 per year.

6. Chairman Armand Verville reported that the Raymond James Trust again presented 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. (See Item 5 in the 2017 minutes of the Old Allenstown Meeting House Committee.)

Armand explained that such revenues and grants, and the Allenstown Historical Society's Friends of the Old Allenstown Meeting House account, are used to cover non-routine projects at the meeting house, while the town covers routine maintenance of this town-owned property under the municipal budget (Item 5, above). For example, in 2017 non-municipal income paid for the new, secure flagpole in memory of longtime volunteer Ann Hasbany, a former regent of Buntin-Rumford-Webster Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution and a longtime member of the Allenstown Historical Society. The same Historical Society account paid for ground-penetrating radar testing of the Burgin Cemetery across the road. This effort identified 31 unmarked burial sites in the enclosure.

7. The committee noted that our annual obligation to report to the New Hampshire Land and Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP) on the condition and upkeep of the meeting house has now expired. With that expiration, we will no longer receive a stipend of \$200 from LCHIP for the timely submission of the required annual Historic Resources Monitoring Report.
8. Armand and Claudette Verville discussed events that are scheduled at the Old Allenstown Meeting House for the spring/summer of 2018, and referred to Claudette's 2017 list of events as examples of what we hope for in 2018. Armand Verville reported that the Student Conservation Association (SCA) will be assisting at the meeting house this summer. Bethany Bryant will be the SCA contact person, and she is eager to expand interpretation at the meeting house. Among the events scheduled for 2018 are:
 - a. Allenstown fourth graders and the Strong Foundations Charter School of Pembroke will make visits.
 - b. May 27: The New Rye Church will hold a service at the building.
 - c. June 4: The Allenstown Board of Selectmen will hold their regular meeting at the meeting house.
 - d. Armand and Claudette Verville will offer a tour of the Old Allenstown Meeting House to participants in the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) of Granite State College on June 11.
 - e. June 29, 11:00-4:00: The Allenstown Historical Society will hold its annual bake sale.
 - f. August 5: Buntin-Rumford-Webster Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution will hold their annual vesper service at 4:00 p.m.
 - g. There will be a wedding at the meeting house on September 8.

In 2017, a total of 67 hours of volunteer time were donated to the meeting house, and 283 visitors were welcomed on 31 open days. Armand and Claudette hope to increase the number of open hours in 2018, but noted that the Allenstown Historical Society has had difficulty in recruiting new volunteers.

New business:

9. The meeting house is experiencing some interior damage caused by chipmunks. Purchase of an ultrasonic repellent device was discussed.
10. David Eaton announced that Derik Goodine will begin work as Allenstown's new full-time town administrator on June 4th.
11. 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 Derik Goodine if a meeting is called.
12. On a motion by Roland Martel, seconded by Claudette Verville, the meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
James L. Garvin, Secretary