Putney Historical Society monthly board meeting minutes

January 20, 2015

Present: Lindley Speers, Lyssa Papazian, Barry Stockwell, Barb Taylor, Maryann Toffolon, Tim Ragle, Ruth Barton, Leah Toffolon, Tom Jamison, Betsy MacIsaac

**Secretary’s report:**

Read Lyssa’s corrections and approved last meeting’s minutes

Lyssa moved to accept, Betsy seconded

unanimous approval

**Treasurer’s report:**

Borrowed about $30,000 from Next Stage to cover cash flow gap for capital work last fall. $20,000 has been paid back.

Calendars: NOT “selling like hot cakes” Maryann suggest liquidation sale at the end of town meeting.$773 oil bill paid. Greg Wilson donated $1800 of Electricity credits, we have $300 left. We should

gift him a calendar (and offer to sell calendars at Basketville!)

$500 bill from Vt Sewer and Drain for addressing toilet failure will be passed on to the capital campaign because the problem was caused by test pits dug for project.

Alan Gilbert donated to capital campaign

Lindley moved to accept

Barb seconded

unanimous approval

**New Business:**

Barry and Lyssa share news from the building committee.

Most everyone has looked at the drawings of the plans for the renovation.

We would like to pass a resolution in support of the building committee’s plans.

June – November no programming at 15 Kimball Hill while construction under way. Other venues will be used including Latchis, Landmark, NEYT, etc. Community suppers will have to be elsewhere too.

Have $722,000 out of $865,000. Meeting on Jan 28th to assess whether this is enough.

Basement: probably to be dug under back addition. Water table is a bit high back there. Will hopefullyrun heating from below.

First floor community rooms: opened up for lobby/ticket sales/concessions. Pocket wall will be

installed between two community rooms. (ping pong club wants to use the community room space

too.)

Hallway & Kitchen: hallway wall to keep public out of the kitchen. Kitchen will be a commercial

kitchen; smaller but more efficient use of space. No pantry in most recent plans. Ruth explains that

design of coffee cart at Dummerston church works well: coffee pots and tea kettle on top of moving

island, store coffee and tea underneath.

Storage: closet under NE stairway to store chairs and tables. Small closet under NW stairway, elevator

passthrough

takes most of present closet.

Office space: Next stage and PHS will have storage space on 3rd floor of back addition. PHS office

needs to remain in a handicap accessible space on first floor. Betsy, Maryann, and Lyssa have met with

Maria about office space use. Maria clearly wanted private, secure space devoted to her tasks and not

decorated with PHS items. Betsy stated her position that PHS have a devoted space and not be

squeezed out. Ruth would like to see more staffed PHS office time in the future when we are open to

the public, and allow for that possibility. Betsy concurs. Barry believes that the use of the office space

can be fluid. Lyssa wonders if the window which will be blocked by the addition can become a door to

a small private office. Ruth pointed out that Maria may not always be the director of Next Stage.

Bathrooms: Maryann wonders do we need 6 toilets? Wouldn’t it be better to have multiple stalls in one

bathroom.

Other 1st floor: possible future set construction shop! temporary office?!

Lyssa will share suggestions with the committee.

2nd floor: Green Room, Raked seating with

donated chairs from a movie theater in Pleasantville, NY. Ruth expresses concern with the loss of the

pews and consequent loss of historic integrity of the building. Barry reports that audience feedback is

about pew comfort is *very* negative and that pews are breaking down: backs are separating from seats.

Comfortable seats are imperative to the success of the NSAP project. Betsy’s husband, who designs

theaters, argues that audience comfort is essential. Currently nine rows; 36 pews. We can use pews

upstairs in Town Hall for presentations, or just storage. Could auction them off, or donate them to

another church. Could be placed around the community.

Seating arrangement: Barry’s idea is to eliminate center aisle and create two offcenter

quarter stepped

aisles and flat aisle to right side. Center aisle sacrifices prime seating. Barry suggests entering from

above. 175 total seats, maybe lose 5 seats with Barry’s aisle plan. Removable stage extension allows

for more seating. Can also be used as risers on top of stage. Apron could take the extensions away.

Ruth suggests they could be stored under the stage. Lyssa regrets that this plan eliminates the historic

Doors and will follow up with committee on this.

Resolution:

*Whereas, the Putney Historical society Board of Directors has previously authorized the joint*

*PHS/NSAP Construction Committee to develop and execute plans for the capital improvements*

*at 15 Kimball Hill; and*

*Whereas, the PHS Board of Directors has reviewed the schematic plans developed by the joint*

*Construction Committee for the 1st and 2nd floors of the building as well as the proposed rear*

*addition; therefore be it*

*Resolved that the PHS Board of Directors wishes to express its approval of the plans in*

*progress, and fully supports the committee’s continued work with the architect to complete*

*finished construction documents in order to facilitate groundbreaking*

*on or about April 1,*

*2015.*

Barry moves to approve, Leah seconds: unanimous vote in the affirmative

Discussed floors, columns, Lyssa’s intention to get approval from historical preservation folks…

Ruth moved to adjourn, Barb seconds.