Putney Historical Society meeting minutes April 14, 2015

Present: Ruth Barton, Lindley Spears, Betsy MacIsaac,

Maryann Toffolon, Barry Stockwell, Lyssa Papazian, Leah Toffolon

No Secretary’s report: Leah missed last meeting; Lindley will type up last month’s minutes…

Capital campaign is short funds. GPI construction will present a contract soon priced in segments of the construction. Will start with first phase June 1 priced at $920,000. Still short of that. Proposed that we approve moving forward with the expectation that we will raise $130,000 by December (or borrow if needed).

Lyssa will apply for a grant to remove the asbestos ceiling tiles of the community room. ~$15,000 to remove!

Raked seating is a priority for the first phase to please the public and drum up support from public for phase 2 fundraising.

**Resolution:**

Putney Historical Society authorizes the construction committee to go forward with phase one of construction to start June 1. Unanimous vote in the affirmative.

PHS is off the tax rolls. Town Manager reminds us that the building has had a change of use and should be zoned accordingly. 190 seats needs ~39 parking spots. Basketville lot with 60 spots is ours for shows, so our application meets the requirements. Lyssa will submit the application to the DRB. Could, if needed, offer a handicapped space curbside that we designate for showtimes only.

Marquis glass has fallen out.

General Store is up to date with rent and paying automatic weekly payments of $1000. Loan that Ming gave us for deck has now been paid in full. We now have a security deposit from Jim which Lyssa put in a CD. Lyssa is looking to sell the tax credit for the building to either Brattleboro Savings and Loan or People’s United. We have accounts at People’s United and the Credit Union.

We’re potentially co-applicants with Landmark College for a grant to fund archiving the Windham College Collection.

What do we want the future to look like in this space? Vision? Exhibition space in the lobby or community room?

Painted Chest belonged to Sylvia Derry just “rediscovered” under a drape in town hall. Appraised for $5000-7000 in a lower market. It needs to be secure or moved. Shall we sell it? Maryann will keep an eye on the market. Bennington Museum had some info on it; there’s a folder with info…

Ruth looked at a “Peel” Bible we have for an interested gentleman from California. The bible is in its box in the vault in the town hall. Betsy volunteered to take a photo to email to said gentleman.

NEXT MEETING PRIORITY: Let’s have a working (moving) tour of our collections for board members. Lyssa will look into a place to store things during construction. Rent storage space? Possibly in the meeting room. Perhaps students could provide labor for volunteer hours (BUHS grad requirement). Shall we tackle this at our regularly scheduled May meeting? Or have a weekend meeting???