Putney Historical Society Monthly Board Meeting

May 19, 2015

Present: Betsy MacIssac, Lindley Spears, Lyssa Papazian, Barry Stockwell, Barb Taylor, Maryann Toffolon, Tim Ragle, Ruth Barton, Leah Toffolon

We need to figure out insurance.

Treasurer’s Report

* Savings: $686.64
* Veteran’s Memorial fund: $16,621.93
* 15KH Capital Campaign: $11,691.91+2700=$14391.91
* Building Reserve: $7,695.70
* Checking: $5,354.00

Lyssa thanks board for contributions to the Capital Campaign

Grant in conjunction with Landmark has been submitted.

Ruth/Lyssa: Thwing Mill

* Ruth received a phone call from a resident of Hi-Lo Biddy: a “big chunk” of the mill had fallen off. Tim looked at it and finds it a “disaster.” Wood shake roofing laid in 1990…. was 25 years ago now! Roof must have been leaking for a while and is now “shot.” Will collapse next winter if not improved. Interior and structural elements rotting. Sitting on an angle on the bank. Chris Patton and Josh Laughlin inspected it. Lyssa asked if it was possible to stabilize it for a “few” thousand dollars. At least to protect the millworks.
* Laurel’s opinion is that spending anything would result in a loss. We’ve been overwhelmed with needy properties.
* Has anyone spoken to Greg Wilson about his thought on the obvious decline of the building? No...
* The mill is insured by the town. Can it be claimed? Or should it be taken off the policy?
* Quite inaccessible. Bridge would be hard to build. Laura Heller opened up Water Street to public passage.
* Lyssa will get more feedback from Josh Laughlin
* Betsy has moved to table and Maryann has seconded

Lyssa: Brownfields Grant; Susan McMahon suggests we apply

* If a building has asbestos you can apply for this grant/loan. Lyssa deems grant application “worth it.” The “popcorn” $14,000 for total ceiling removal. $2500 to scrape and repaint the upstairs ceiling. The wood varnish on the floor also has lead. To strip the floors is $15,000. $32,009 max we can apply for is 80% of cost (20% must be matched) ~$25,000 total. (Miles Danaher has a sander with a vacuum to handle floors with lead.)
* Lyssa moves that board grant Ruth the authority to sign a consent form to pull our credit reference and to apply for the grant/loan.
* Lindley seconded. Vote in the affirmative.

Barbara: Putney Cares Smokehouse, Trivia

* Approached by Amelia Struthers’ mother: from Townsend, MA and has been fundraising etc. Concerned about the brick smokehouse at Putney Cares. Steve gave her some history. She’d like PHS to take it on. Belongs to Windham and Windsor housing trust; tell her to contact them. Call Pamela Cubbage. New roof recently. Needs repointing.
* Laughter ensues.
* Trivia question: OLD receipts: are they from Mellon’s Store? F.B. Howard is Fred Howard.

Barry: Moving

* Michael Wells is pushing us to move things by June 1. Back yard was cleared and wood chipped. Hooray! Apron will clear out community room. Community supper people will move kitchen stuff (it ultimately belongs to us). John Burt of the Next Stage board offered to rent a storage container to store pews.
* Billy has offered pews to artists to paint and auction off. Let’s keep some of them for town hall, and possibly community room.
* Make sure to take out all items we need to access for summer, photo albums, for sale items, delicate items (ribbon case, bonnet case, glass doors, etc.)
* Barry has been trying to get students from BUHS and Putney School to move stuff. Ruth suggests a priority to get the bins out of the upstairs. AND put them in numerical order!
* Betsy offered to look for space in her own personal storage unit for PHS furniture.
* 4’ around edge of room must be cleared.
* Maryann offers to pack up kitchen and arrange furniture this Saturday and/or Sunday.
* Maybe move the 30th during the day.
* Tell public that we’re out of commission for the time being.
* Piano in community room… whose was it? Was upstairs originally. Piano and Altar are heaviest items. Wouldn’t we want to hold on to it? Ruth says that the altar isn’t really that old. Can we sell it?

Barb makes motion to adjourn, Lindley seconded.