

DRAFT MINUTES

Selectboard Special Meeting

Friday, November 8, 2018

2:00 p.m.

Members present: Jim Benoit, Clark Hinsdale, Jessica James, and Michael "Red" Muir. Rick Ebel absent.

Visitors present: Carl Cole, Dylan Griffin, Ashley LaFlam, Jean Richardson, Silas Towler, Kate Yarbrough

1. Jessica James opened the meeting at 2:00 p.m.

2. Union Meeting Hall - structural building maintenance work proposal.

Red Muir began the discussion regarding the Union Meeting Hall building maintenance and structural damages, including the roof. Red Muir stated that with the snow load on the building and the roof sloping as it is currently, that the building is unsafe and could be in a worse condition in the spring. Miles Jenness of Vermont Heavy Timber, presented the Initial shoring and repair proposal for the Union Meeting Hall, Ferrisburgh Vermont, proposal. Miles Jenness discussed the inspection of the roof, the condition of trusses numbered 5, 3 and 4 were opened up but not trusses 1 and 2 yet, but is planning on inspecting them as well. Miles Jenness stated the proposal included staging towers for shoring, replacement of rafters, slate repair and a walkway. Jean Richardson stated that the Union Meeting Hall is from 1840's, indicated the chimney was original however the flashing might not be. Carl Cole stated that the shoring had to be done and the selectboard should consider fixing the rest of the issues during the time Miles Jenness was doing the work. Miles Jenness estimated the total renovation project to be around \$100,000 total. Kate Yarbrough stated that she would not want more damage from an ice storm that could possibly set the repairs back further and personally vouched for Miles Jenness as she was a client and his estimates were reasonable and timely. Discussion ensued on the rafter repair and shoring. Red Muir stated that we should stabilize and secure the building. Carl Cole stated that he would be receiving a window restoration proposal tomorrow. Discussion ensued on the flashing and slate repair. Jean Richardson stated that she would volunteer to be the Town contact person for the Union Meeting Hall for the grant writing and Jessica James, and Jim Benoit agreed that it would be appropriate. Dylan Griffin stated the Union Meeting Hall group should consider a fundraiser. Ashley LaFlam stated that the Union Meeting Hall group hopes to sign up as a 501c3 nonprofit next week and that the

intention is to generate enough funds from rentals that they would eventually pay for themselves in time and a lot of public relations and outreach. Kate Yarbrough stated that any amount the town could commit to continue to help in the meantime would be beneficial for the grants as well, as it would be showing a vested interest. Jim Benoit stated that the town contributes \$30,000 annually toward building maintenance. Red Muir stated that the Building Maintenance Committee will meet and work on the prioritization and budget for the building maintenance fund on Tuesday afternoon. Clark Hinsdale made the motion to retain Vermont Heavy Timbers in the amount of \$19,865 to shore up and protect the structure and not to remodel the Union Meeting Hall. Red Muir seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

3. Ferrisburgh Union Meeting Hall Group - grants and grant application discussion. Ashley LaFlam stated that she would like to request that the selectboard form a subcommittee with Ashley LaFlam, as the head to apply for grants and funds needed to restore and preserve the historic Union Meeting Hall. Ashley LaFlam stated that there are many individuals interested in joining this committee including Kate and Finn Yarbrough, Mary Neffinger, Jean Richardson, Silas Towler, Gail Blasius, Carl Cole and Nadia Smith and they plan to spend the next week reaching out to everyone that has expressed interest and asking them to join and support this committee with the common goal of again making the Union Meeting Hall a vital part of our community. Clark Hinsdale made the motion to form a subcommittee for the Union Meeting Hall sanctioned by the selectboard. Red Muir seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

4. 2:56 pm. Motion to adjourn by Jim Benoit and seconded by Clark Hinsdale. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

The next Special Selectboard Meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 12, 2019 at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica James