



1879 Perkinsville Schoolhouse Committee  
Wednesday, November 30, 2022 at 6:30 PM  
at 1879 Perkinsville Schoolhouse  
1862 Route 106, Perkinsville VT  
Meeting Minutes - DRAFT

1. Matt called the meeting to order at 6:33.
2. **Roll call:** Matt Keniston, deForest Bearse, Bev Strobl, Dottie Richardson, Alison Roth  
Guests: David Bearse, BJ Esty  
Absent: Karen McGee – had knee surgery, unable to attend
3. **Election of new Committee Chairperson:** Dottie nominated Matt Keniston to be Committee Chairperson, seconded by Bev Stobel. Discussion. All voted in favor of Matt becoming Chairperson through the duration of this Committee which should last at least until Town Meeting time. Also approved were members of the Committee: deForest Bearse, Dottie Richardson, Bev Strobl, Alison Roth.
4. Approve minutes from previous last warned meeting – September 22, 2022 . Alison will send those approved minutes to Olivia at the Town Office.
5. **Financial Report** – Matt is requesting a meeting with town accountant Steve Hier to go over our financials. Matt sent a copy of totals we have kept track of to Brandon Gulnick, town manager. Our Reserve Fund of \$14, 600.80 is set up at Town Meeting, we have questions as to why that total is shown dropping on reports we have received from the town. We also have questions about the use of AARPA funds the town has available and how those funds can be used to pay for a matching grant.
6. **New Business:**
  - a. **Presentation of Selectboard Generated Uses Survey** – Matt noted that on election day the Select board offered a survey questionnaire asking about suggestions of uses of the 1879 Schoolhouse. Brandon apparently collected the answers and was going to present those answers but he was not present at our meeting this evening. Tabled for another time.
  - b. **Purpose of 1879 Schoolhouse Committee moving forward** – Discussion. Without a Stewardship/Oversight Committee in place for the 1879 Schoolhouse we believe our Committee should stay intact in order to maintain focus on the building and not have a vacuum re: its use and purpose. There is a need for responsible oversight of the building, a need to carry over a focus into further restoration (of the South Classroom

currently housing the Food Shelf) and into creative thinking about fundraising towards that end. In short, the job of restoration of the building is still ongoing, although we completed a major part of that restoration in the North Classroom and foyer now ready to be used by townspeople.

- c. **Establish elements of stewardship, informal focus group.** Discussion. We agreed that there is a group of Trustees who oversee the use of Martin Memorial Hall for town use, individual use of the building for meetings, and we will investigate how those Trustees oversee use of the building, what – if any – charges there are and what kind of guidelines they have created for people using the building. Would those guidelines be of use to a Committee overseeing use of the 1879 Schoolhouse?

Other issues that would come under the Oversight/Stewardship Committee include short and long range maintenance, and possibly fundraising.

We need a Vision statement on the continued restoration of the building, the oversight of its use and maintenance of it. What would we like to see covered in this area? This is homework for the Committee to think about and continue a discussion about at our next meeting in January.

- d. **Improve Communications between Committee and Town** – We will start work on this immediately, with Matt meeting with Steve Hier and following up with town Manager Brandon Gulnick. We know we need to connect better with the Select board members as well.
- e. **Snow removal and ideas on mitigating roof snow buildup on pathway:** The library in Ascutney does its own snow removal, and we can too. Bev and Rick Strobl, Brian Bosenberg of the Food Shelf, Andy Jarvis (Next door neighbor to the 1879 building) and Matt Keniston will all participate in snow removal. We will create a calendar that keeps track of when deliveries and when open days for the schoolhouse are taking place, as well as availability of people listed above to do snow removal. Further, Matt noted that we have discussed a snow shedding canopy be used so snow falling from the roof will not land on the walkway.

## 7. Old Business:

- a. **Select board decision on paving ramp** – the Selectboard approved paving the ramp, and the Food Shelf offered to pay \$2500 to \$3750 for this paving. Our Committee also approved the paving.
- b. **How did our Open House celebration on November 6<sup>th</sup> go?** Discussion on how well the celebration went. John Arrison, our state rep, was present and spoke (John also donated his electrical expertise to the building.) The food by Angie, BJ's sister, was wonderful, we received some wonderful photos from Betsy Child and others of alumni who attended, and everyone who attended seemed to have a good time. 54 people signed the book, but we think there were between 65-70 who showed up.

Dottie sent thank you's to Willis Wood for his donated cider, to Angie for her wonderful Charcuterie board, to Wellwood Orchard for their delicious cider donuts.

8. **Honoring our recently resigned Board Chair, Betty Jo Esty:** we presented BJ with a thank you card and gift certificate to the Copper Fox for her outstanding work as chair of the Committee over the last 10 plus years.

## 9. Open Floor

Question about why the bell can't ring – Answer: it's broken and will be fixed.

Question about Lisa, Yoga teacher who wants to teach a class in the North Classroom – what should we tell her. Hold off until we investigate how oversight works for Martin Memorial Hall and we have some rules in place for building use.

Question about a summer camp use of the building: hold off on decision (see directly above.)

Question about people who are already using the building – can we get a list of who these people are?

Next meeting: Wednesday January 4 at 6:30 at the Schoolhouse

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm