

**Minutes of the Municipal Building Committee and  
Historical Commission Joint Meeting**

February 1, 2016 at 6:00pm, Town Offices

Present were Building Committee members: Virginia Allis, Adelia Bardwell, Dan Kennedy, Judy Markland, and Fred Orloski; and Historical Commission members Alan McArdle, Judy Markland and Donna Wiley. Also present was Dan Denehy.

The minutes of January 11, 2016 were approved.

Adelia commented that a committee member should represent the decisions of the committee in public and her disappointment that this had not happened at the recent CPC meeting, especially since the committee's vote had been unanimous. Dan noted that an individual can vote to approve a measure so that it goes forward for decision elsewhere without supporting it oneself. Judy noted that, at a minimum a member, who does not agree with the decision should clarify that his statement is an individual one and not representative of the committee.

Donna reported that the CPC unanimously approved funding \$84,000 for bid-ready documents. The Friends of Town Hall will provide the remaining \$10,000 to fund the project. Judy noted that the Planning Board had unanimously supported the CPA request as well.

Donna also distributed an activity plan outlining various funding options for the eventual project that the Historical Commission had researched and the calendar of deadlines for each. CPA funding is the most important and the project is 100% eligible. Discussion at the CPC meeting showed that the CPC is very supportive of the project. The work is eligible for a subsidized USDA rural development loan, which would allow the CPA to borrow significantly more money at the same debt service which had been previously approved at town meeting. There are also three state grants for historic preservation, cultural facilities and accessibility respectively. Bid-ready documents are required prior to applying.

The Building Committee expressed its appreciation for this work and the excellent findings.

Alan explained that the Historical Commission has also been researching other towns that converted municipal buildings into community centers in hopes of learning of their experiences. Berlin, Sterling and Pelham are on the list so far. The Commission will be developing a list of questions to ask and individuals will be assigned to research each. Field trips were discussed as well.

The group discussed the need for a public meeting prior to town meeting to increase awareness of the project. Dan suggested that the regular April meeting would be a good time for this and that it could be advertised in the Scoop.

The next meeting will be on Monday, March 7 at 6pm at the Town Offices.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Markland

documents discussed at the meeting and on file:

Whately Town Hall Restoration and Rehabilitation to create a Community Center, Activity Plan and Calendar (Draft for review by Municipal Building Committee and Whately Historical Commission, 2/1/16)