



Farley Building Committee

Town of Hollis

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Minutes of 13 September 2011

Meeting was held in the Community Room, Hollis Town Hall and was called to order by John Anderson at 7:40 PM.

Members present: John Anderson, Michael Harris, Vahrij Manoukian, Dave Sullivan, Dick Brown
Also present: Frank Caldwell

Review of minutes. Deferred review of 22 August 2011 minutes.

Historic Preservation Alliance Grant: John commented that last evening the selectmen turned down the request by Dave Sullivan to apply for the grant to assess the possibility of restoration of the Farley building. Dave commented that he did not feel it appropriate that John Anderson voiced disapproval of the grant application before the selectmen despite the fact that the committee had approved the application by a 4 – 1. John agreed and apologized. Vahrij commented that he would like votes of the committee to be taken only when the full membership is present. Dave commented that one can never be sure that all members will be present. Michael Harris commented that he agrees with Dave that when one of the committee is speaking for the committee one needs to represent the voted position of the committee even when one is opposed to the committee position.

Stabilization/Mothballing: John Anderson commented Dick Brown had found a roofer, Tom Deary from Nashua, who would repair the roof for a modest sum. Dick Brown commented that he believes there would be money available to patch the roof (through private donations). John commented that the Stephenson Engineering report was a valuable document and that it pointed out several structural shortcomings that would need to be addressed. Dick Brown commented that the proof of the structural integrity of the building is that it has lasted for many years under heavy snow load. He said that he feels it is a shame that the roof has not been repaired given all the recent rain.

Dave commented that he did not think that the town would vote for the expenditure to tear down the building (~\$100K). He commented that he would advocate a more modest expenditure of ~\$20K to stabilize the building. Frank Caldwell commented that it would be important to him to know what the proposed future use of the building would be. He commented that adding an additional building to the town would entail additional maintenance. Vahrij commented that there is not enough money currently available to renovate the Town Hall building and he said that the Town Hall should take precedence over renovation of the Farley building.

John commented that the committee members need to show up and make decisions. He commented that we know the cost to tear the building down (~\$100K). We need to know the cost of stabilizing the building. He said that he and Dave would work on that number. Michael Harris commented that the committee should be sensitive to the request by the selectmen to propose a use as well. John agreed and reiterated the idea of putting a gazebo on the spot. Dave mentioned that other possibilities include moving the children's library, the town clerk and the building department. Vahrij commented that we should solicit suggestions for use from the committee members. John said he would do that.

Vahrij commented that the fire chief is planning to shut off the electricity to the building in order to minimize false alarm calls..

John suggested that the next meeting be 28 September 2011

Next Meeting will be held 28 September 2011 at 7:30 PM in the Town Hall Community Room.

John discussed the actions for next meeting:

1. John and Dave will assess the cost to stabilize the building
2. John will solicit future use ideas from the committee members prior to the next meeting.

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Vahrij moved to adjourn. Michael Harris seconded. Approved 8:30 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Harris, Clerk