

MEETING MINUTES

WALKER SCHOOL



MEETING #: 1

DATE: FEBRUARY 11, 2026

CONVENE: 6:05 PM

ADJOURN: 7:15 PM

PROPERTY
REPURPOSING
COMMITTEE

ATTENDEES:

RICHARD KING
ELISE BROWN
AUTUMN JACKSON
CAROL MCGOVERN

JIM CALDWELL
DEAN BARTLETT
MICA WHITNEY
PETER BECKFORD

ISA OBERLE
HARRY SCHADEI
BARBARA EDMOND
JANE LEIBLER

NEW BUSINESS

1 ELECT CHAIR AND CO-CHAIR

- A RICHARD KING VOLUNTEERED TO BE THE COMMITTEE CHAIR AND OFFERED TO HOLD AN ELECTION IF NECESSARY.
- B CAROL GAVE BACKGROUND ON BEING CHAIR, AND RECOMMENDED RICHARD KING AS CHAIR AND ELISE BROWN AS VICE CHAIR. CAROL SHARED THAT SHE FEELS RICHARD HAS THE TIME AND ELISE HAS LESS AVAILABILITY BUT BRINGS A LOT OF SKILL.
- C HARRY SCHADEI ASKED IF RICHARD AND ELISE HAVE PROJECT MANAGEMENT SKILLS AND IF THEY CAN HANDLE MULTIPLE TASK AT ONCE DURING A SHORT TIMEFRAME. HE RECOMMENDS SOMEONE WHO HAS A HIGH LEVEL OF PROJECT MANAGEMENT SKILLS.

RICHARD SAID AS AN ARCHITECT HE HAS MANAGED MANY PROJECTS WITH MULTIPLE EMPLOYEES, CONSULTANTS, AND CONTRACTORS.
- D HARRY WILL WE USE PROJECT MANAGEMENT SOFTWARE?
- E RICHARD NOTED THAT EVERYONE'S DATA SHEET HAD DESCRIPTIONS OF SUBCOMMITTEES SAID WE BEGIN ORGANIZING THEM AT THE NEXT MEETING.
- F BARBARA EDMOND MADE A MOTION TO ELECT RICHARD KING AS CHAIR, AND ELISE BROWN AS CO-CHAIR. HARRY SECONDED THE MOTION. ALL IN FAVOR. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.
- G ELISE THANKED CAROL FOR HER WORK AS CHAIR OF THE PREVIOUS COMMITTEE.

2 INTRODUCTIONS

- A ISA OBERLE: BUILDER, RESTORATION CARPENTER, MANUAL LABOR OFFERINGS. FULL TIME JOB SO AVAILABILITY IS MORE OPEN ON EVENINGS AND WEEKENDS.
- B PETE BECKFORD: FARMER, CERTAIN PERIODS OF THE GROWING SEASON IS UNAVAILABLE. LIKES COMMUNITY, LIKES PROVIDING FOR A COMMUNITY IN WAYS PEOPLE WANT IT, LIKES BUILDINGS AND OLD BUILDINGS. HE HAS BEEN INVOLVED IN PROJECT TO SAVE AN OLD BUILDINGS IN PRIOR TOWN, LIKES GROUP DYNAMICS AND FINDING SOLUTIONS TOGETHER.
- C JIM CALDWELL: MOVED HERE 22 YEARS AGO, ENGINEER BY TRADE, HIS DAD WAS BUILDER SO HE CAN SWING A HAMMER. DESIGNED, MANAGED, AND REBUILT BUILDINGS FOR A TELEPHONE COMPANY, WANTS TO FOCUS ON PROJECT MANAGEMENT FOR THIS COMMITTEE.
- D HARRY SCHADEI: MOVED HERE 25 YEARS AGO FROM NYC, BACKGROUND IN IT PROJECT MANAGEMENT, LOOKING TO HELP WITH PROJECT MANAGEMENT, WANTS TO INSULATE THE TAXPAYERS FROM INCREASED TAX BILLS, HELP GET MONEY TO PREVENT THIS A TAX BURDEN.
- E ELISE BROWN: CARRIES HER EMA DIRECTOR AND FIRST RESPONDER HAT. WANTS TO FIND THE BEST USE FOR THE FACILITY AND SOME GRANTS FOR EMA AND FIRST RESPONSE.
- F BARBARA EDMOND: 40 YEARS OF OWNING PROPERTY IN LIBERTY BUT HAS LIVED FULL TIME IN LIBERTY FOR 12. INTERESTED IN COMMUNITY PROJECTS, WANTS EVERYONE'S VOICES HEARD, INCLUSIVE PROJECTS, BACKGROUND IN FACILITATION. SHE KNOWS A LOT OF FUNDERS, KNOWS HOW TO ACCESS FUNDER DATA, LOTS OF QUESTIONS, IS INTERESTED IN COMMUNICATIONS, WANTS BETTER COMMUNICATIONS. SHE SUGGESTS HAVING A FACT SHEET AT TOWN MEETINGS.

MEETING# 1 MINUTES, CONTINUED:

- G CAROL MCGOVERN: MOVED TO LIBERTY 40 SOMETHING YEARS AGO, PRINCIPLE HERE FOR 9 YEARS, BACKGROUND IN EDUCATION, SOFT SPOT FOR WALKER, WANTS TO SERVE PEOPLE WITHOUT BURDENING THE TAXPAYER, CAN DO FUNDRAISING AND COMMUNICATION
- H JANE LEIBLER: COMING TO LIBERTY SINCE THE 50S LIVING HERE SINCE 92, PRO TEACHER, MANAGED A LARGE GREEN HOUSE, BOARD OF RED CROSS, PRESIDENT OF MEALS ON WHEELS ON CONNECTICUT, FUNDING FOR NEWS SHEET, COMMUNICATION IS IMPORTANT,
- I DEAN BARTLETT: GREW UP HERE, SMALL BUSINESS OWNER, STRENGTH WITH PEOPLE, HE WANTS THIS TO BE SOMETHING FOR LIBERTY, DOESN'T WANT TO OVERSPEND, #1 THING IS HOW DO WE FUND IT STARTING IN JULY. WANTS FOR INFO FOR TOWN. GIVE INPUT WHERE IT IS NEEDED AND SKILL SET IS WITH PEOPLE. WANTS TO MAKE TOWN PROUD.
- J MICA WHITNEY: WANTS TO START PRESCHOOL, DOESN'T HAVE A LOT OF TIME AVAILABLE NOW, SUMMER IS MORE FLEXIBLE. WISHES TO LEARN ABOUT GRANT WRITING.
- K AUTUMN JACKSON: ASSIGNED BY THE SELECTBOARD, WANTS TO SUPPORT IN WHATEVER WAYS SHE CAN.

3 MISCELLANEOUS

- A OTHER PEOPLE INTERESTED IN THIS EFFORT:
SHERYL BALL WILL HELP WITH GRANT WRITING.
BOB KOHL HAS EXPRESSED INTEREST IN HELPING THE EFFORT.
- B CAROL STATED THAT WE NEED TO DETERMINE PLAN AND TIMELINE AND HAVE NEED SOME UP-FRONT FUNDS. HARRY SAID THAT 57K HAS BEEN INCLUDED IN THE BUDGET FOR THIS FOR USE IN MAINTAINING THE BUILDING AFTER RSU3 LEAVES FINALLY IN JUNE.
- C RICHARD SAID THAT WE WOULD START ORGANIZING SUBCOMMITTEES AT OUR NEXT MEETING BASED ON INTERESTS INDICATED ON EVERYONE'S INFORMATION SHEET.
- D BARBARA SEES THE NEED FOR A VISIONING PROCESS-A VISION FOR FUNDING AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT. PEOPLE WILL GATHER AROUND A VISION. ELISE NOTED THAT THE VISIONING HAS BEGUN. HARRY ASKED IF IT IS A MISSION STATEMENT.
- E NOTING THAT ONE OF THE USES THAT IS DESIRED IS FOR DAYCARE, WHICH FROM PREVIOUS DISCUSSIONS, THERE ARE GRANT FUNDS AVAILABLE, THOUGH NOT IN LARGE AMOUNTS. THE DOWNSIDE OF DAYCARE IS THAT IT WILL REQUIRE A SPRINKLER SYSTEM-PROBABLY THE LARGEST COST WE FACE AS IT WOULD REQUIRE 30-40K GALLONS OF WATER STORED ON SITE. PARTIALLY SPRINKLERING MAY BE POSSIBLE, BUT THE COST WOULD PROBABLY BE MORE THAN HALF THE COST OF A FULL SYSTEM.
- F RICHARD SAID THAT IT IS VERY IMPORTANT TO NOT DISCUSS COST FIGURES WITH ANYONE OUTSIDE OUR COMMITTEE UNTIL WE HAVE GOTTEN ESTIMATES. PEOPLE TEND TO HEAR THE FIRST NUMBERS AND REMEMBER THEM WHEN THE FINAL NUMBERS ARE DIFFERENT.
- G DEAN ASKED ABOUT INCLUDING REPRESENTATIVES OF MONTVILLE, AS WE WORK CLOSELY WITH MONTVILLE IN SOME WAYS.

THERE IS NO OPPOSITION TO VISITORS WITH IDEAS TO SHARE, BUT WE WOULD HAVE TO CONSIDER ANY FORMAL ARRANGEMENTS.

AUTUMN WILL SPEAK WITH HANNAH ABOUT THIS.

MEETING# 1 MINUTES, CONTINUED:

H DEAN SAID THAT WE NEED TO UNDERSTAND THE NUMBERS RELATED TO SELLING THE PROPERTY.

WE CLARIFIED THAT OUR DIRECTIVE TO EXPLORE THE POTENTIAL USES FOR THE BUILDING AS A TOWN FACILITY. WE WILL LOOK AT THE "WISH LIST" OF USES THAT SURFACED DURING THE OPEN MEETINGS OF THE LAST COMMITTEE (A COPY OF THE RESULTS IS ATTACHED).

WHEN WE FINISH OUR WORK, WE WILL PRESENT TO THE SELECT BOARD A PROJECT, ITS PROBABLE COSTS, AND POSSIBLE FUNDING.

THE SELECT BOARD WILL DETERMINE THE COMPLETE PACKAGE (BORROWING, ETC.) AND WILL PRESENT IT TO THE TOWN, WHICH WILL VOTE YAY OR NAY.

SHOULD IT BE NAY, THEN THE DECISION TO SELL WILL HAVE TO BE MADE.

I AT OUR NEXT MEETING WE WILL DISCUSS COMMITTEE GROUND RULES AND ORGANIZATION.

4 ADJOURNMENT

7:15

5 BUILDING TOUR

THOSE WHO WISHED, TOOK A TOUR OF THE BUILDING AFTER ADJOURNMENT.

6 LOST AND FOUND

NOTE: WHOEVER LEFT THEIR MITTENS ON THEIR CHAIR, WILL FIND THEM ON THE TABLE WHEN THEY RETURN.

7 ATTACHMENT

ATTACHED IS THE SURVEY RESULTS AND INFORMATION FROM THE WORK OF THE ORIGINAL COMMITTEE. PLEASE REVIEW FOR MONDAY'S MEETING (6:30).