

Bennington Building Committee

July 1, 2014

Meeting began at 6:15

Attendance: Tom James, Peter Martel, Jeff Rose, Rhea Taylor

Meeting began at 6:15PM

Peter shared updates re the Architect, NH Preservation, Margaret Dillon, and Energy Committee's perspective.

Alison Meltzer has been asked to step in for David Drasba as needed, as David was still in the hospital as of last week. She and Margaret Dillon have consulted, and both expect to be available the week of 7/14.

NH Preservation has been updated regarding the report, David's condition, and Alison stepping in. NH Preservation wants to see a draft of the report along with any comments from the local committees prior to the report being final.

Margaret Dillon has been working with the energy committee helping them to develop a list of suggestions. The Energy committee has asked for more info regarding the insulation options and associated costs. Generally they would like to see the building become a preservation model for energy efficiency upgrades. Specifically, they would like to see walls insulated at a level equivalent to 10" dense packed cellulose, assessing trade-offs of losing interior space via adding an interior wall vs adding exterior insulation (should the exterior be replaced and if so does it make better sense thus to add insulation to the exterior). They also would like to see the large windows not included in the design where the original freight doors were, due to the added heat loss, cost and limited aesthetic value (most meetings happen at night, the transom and original office windows will provide daylight, large expanses of glass were not part of the original design). Instead they'd like to see the freight doors emulated with vertical boards otherwise maintaining a full wall thickness.

During the meeting the Building Committee raised the following issues:

- 1-The current building overhang is not wide enough to cover the wheelchair ramp.
- 2-Option to have just one window on east side
- 3-Bead board not a good air barrier
- 4-Lead paint issues interior and exterior
- 5-Consider closed cell spray foam insulation as an option
- 6-Do we need an accessible ramp on the front entrance?
- 7-Can the 2nd original door location on the east side be an alternative to the front (south) door?

8-Sequence of the project matters in decisions. Priorities include bathroom, accessibility and getting it to a useable state ASAP.

9-Possible fundraising (via energy committee) based on the idea that this could serve as an model for innovative combining energy efficiency and preservation.

10-How much foundation work is required?

11-Are the floors level?

12-Are all small meeting room current window locations original and is original framing intact?

13-Kitchen area

14-Are the doors between the meeting spaces conducive to voting needs?

15-Height of ceiling preferences for the large space (considered even to the roof, to reflect original size of room)

16-Can we preserve the cubbies currently seen in the attic?

The Building Committee agreed to fully review all reports and come to the next meeting ready to discuss it and pass on any comments and questions to architect and energy consultant, in preparation for a preferred meeting date of July 15th.

Peter will attempt to confirm 7/15 with Margaret Dillon and Alison Meltzer (or David Drasba).

Meeting adjourned at 8:00PM

Respectfully submitted,
Peter K. Martel