

Townsend Historical Society
Membership Meeting
September 22, 2021
7:00 PM

In accordance with ongoing Covid-19 safety measures, this Member Meeting meeting was held virtually using Zoom.

In attendance: Dana Blanchard, Anni Morrell, Natalie Call, Ryan Hayward, Alice Struthers, Justin Dunbeck, Bill Rideout, Cheryl Rideout, Kara Fossey, Maureen Blanchard, Sue Gerken, Lee McTighe, Sandi Tuttle, Heidi Messing, Taber Morrell

Virtual input / votes on 9/22 from Carrie West, Susan McNally, and Halie Morrell.

Called to order at 7:25 P.M.

Presentation of projects for Members to approve:

- Ryan answers the question of ‘What is a Capital Project?’
- Discussed how these are run. Explanation of committees and how they are ultimately answerable to the membership.
- Overview of historic structures THS cares for: Reed Homestead, Spaulding Cooperage, Spaulding Grist Mill, Harbor Church, Copeland Cooper Shop, First School Monument.
- Summary of accomplishments to date, then restoration needs - short term and long term of each building.
- Discussion of prioritization of projects, noting that we’re focusing first on income-generating properties to place the org. in the best position to fund further projects.
- Spaulding Cooperage proposed repair summary / timeline. Approximately \$40,000 worth of work, with \$22,000 raised to date. Still need to bridge the gap for funding.
- Harbor Church assessment, discussion of proposed work. Approximately \$1,500 worth of work, with \$1,800 raised through donations. Future work will be bigger but project will allow building to become income generating and self-sustaining. Donor has requested that the Society hold onto the building for a specified length of time.
- Request for membership to the board: two motions (indicated below) to be voted on.

Questions/Comments from the Membership”

- Kara Fossey: Asked the length of time the Harbor Church would be ineligible for sale if the membership decided to rescind the vote to no longer maintain the building and sell it?

A: The donor requests a five year hold of the Harbor Church to complete work and generate income for a complete study of the building. The donor has no desire to permanently restrict the sale of the Harbor Church.

-Bill Rideout: Just wanted to note that with the coming of the rail trail, this project seems to be perfectly timed. Thanked presenter for a very clear, well defined, approach to projects.

Following discussion, there were three votes taken by the membership:

Dana Blanchard motion to allow the Townsend Historical Society Board of Directors to move forward with the Spaulding Cooperage Exterior Repairs through fundraising, financing, and/or by removing surplus funds (capital gains and dividends) from our investments in order to complete the tasks as proposed and presented. Kara Fossey seconded. Approved unanimously (15-0).

Alice Struthers motion to rescind the vote of the membership allowing the Townsend Historical Society Board of Directors to proceed with selling the Townsend Harbor Church as voted and approved during the 2018 Annual Meeting. Dana Blanchard seconded. Unanimous vote of approval (15-0).

Taber Morrell motion to allow the Townsend Historical Society Board of Directors, in partnership with the interested individuals, move forward with an initial plan for reuse and restoration to income generating status the Townsend Harbor Church provided that such plan come at no cost to the Society. Seconded by Maureen Blanchard. Approved unanimously (15-0).

Thank were made by the members for the progress to date. Everyone looks forward to the next steps and completion of the work.

Heidi Messing motions to adjourn. Lee McTighe seconds. Unanimous ayes.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 P.M.