

Notes of the Bethel Town Hall Restoration Committee  
January 27, 2010, 7:00 PM  
Bethel Library

**In Attendance:** Kep Taylor, Chris Masters, Amy White, Janet Burnham, Nick & Heidi Nikolaidis, Geneva Gaiko, Susie & Gregg Fedak, Kevin Flynn, Mary Floyd, Rick Benson, Winslow Ayer, Neal Fox, Joe & Carol DeFreitas

Neal opened the meeting at 7:00PM

Neal announced that the Bids had been opened but not yet awarded officially. It appears that E. F. Wall Construction was the low bidder with \$908,000 but most of the bids were very close and only 2 went over a million dollars. The past few months have been very busy at the Town Offices with Town Hall Restoration and Neal felt that Del Cloud deserved high praise for his yeoman service on the Town Hall project.

Unfortunately, the bids came in with provision for radiant heat in the basement area *only* and not in the main hall upstairs. It had previously been discussed and decided that radiant heat would be preferable to baseboard or registers that would take up additional wall space and require periodic cleaning and maintenance. Winslow Ayer expressed his views on the inefficiency of radiant heat under a thick wooden floor and Neal agreed but felt that it was a trade off to preserve wall space and reduce maintenance.

Construction is expected to commence on March 1st, 2010, and be completed by August 1st, 2010. Arrangements have been made with Mascoma Bank to borrow money at a low interest rate to make necessary construction payments timely in order for construction not to be held up due to financial concerns.

It appears that there may be an additional grant available from the USDA as they often give grants to those entities that they loan to. Mary Floyd wanted to know what criteria had to be met in order to obtain the grant and apparently there isn't any as long as it is linked with this project.

It was suggested that the Finance Committee commence knocking on doors and making phone calls, after Town Meeting Day, to the citizens of Bethel who would most likely donate money. General consensus is that once people see that the renovation is finally underway that they would be more receptive to contributions towards the furnishings, kitchen, etc. The "Wish List" is still on the back-burner waiting to be created and publicized. Mary Floyd suggested that through a newspaper article about the Town Hall Project, we should request that people in town volunteer to serve on some of our committees. (This is an afterthought I had as I was typing this: If we could compile a Wish List before Town Meeting, perhaps we could make a hand-out flyer to give to attendees as they arrive?)

Once construction gets underway there will be weekly meetings specific to what is coming up next on the building agenda. These meetings are open to anyone who is interested in attending. Neal suggested that when we know what each meeting's topic will be, it should be emailed to the rest of the Committee so that interested parties could attend and input their suggestions and/or expertise.

The paperwork for handling the renting of the Town Hall is something that Neal felt that the girls in the Town Office could handle without too much problem once we set out proper contracts and Policy and Procedures.

Nick wanted to know how the windows and doors will be handled as he has some of the original doors to the Town Hall, however, one needs to be duplicated and he felt that we should utilize local help to do that.

It was suggested that David Hodgdon be asked to fix some of the old chairs that were original to the building. Mary Floyd said that it was about \$25 for a new seat and back.

Neal felt that as long as there were no unforeseeable problems we should be doing well in the financial department.

Neal suggested that sub-committees be formed for the following:

#### PROCEDURES COMMITTEE - Mary Floyd, Nick, Winslow and Neal

This committee will undertake to pull together information to create a Policy & Procedures contract for future renters of the Town Hall. The biggest conflict Neal could see that would definitely have to be addressed is alcohol on the premises. Apparently the Town has no liability if the vendor renting the hall has a liquor license. Individuals would be prohibited from bringing alcohol into the Town Hall and there would be no "open bars" allowed. Mary volunteered to do the research on the alcohol issue.

#### KITCHEN & FURNISHING COMMITTEE - Nick, Heidi, Kep & Suzie

The appliances, utensils, dishes for 200 people, etc., for the kitchen area will be addressed by this committee as well as the chairs and tables that will be needed in the Hall itself. Nick had already looked into tables and he said that Central Supply could get what is needed for around \$45.00/table. It is a matter of deciding between oblong and round tables. Victoria Webber had put together a very well researched paper on the types of chairs that would be recommended to do dual duty as auditorium and dining chairs. Copies of Victoria's research were passed out to those who were present. It was estimated that chairs of the quality and versatility that Victoria had researched would run in the vicinity of \$50,000 to \$60,000 for 200 chairs. Heidi was most emphatic in her condemnation of Hobart electronic dishwashers and that under no circumstances should we either buy one nor should we take one if it was being given away.

#### LIGHT & SOUND COMMITTEE - Kep & Joe

Kep & Joe will look into what is needed for lights and sound equipment. Lighting is in the current specs. The lights on the walls are supposed to be as close in design to the period as possible. Kip stated that the acoustics were good in the Hall but a sound system is needed and that he has information on both. Duplicating the original chandelier that was in the Hall was suggested, however, there is a large cost factor involved in undertaking a project like that.

#### PARTY COMMITTEE: Chris & Geneva

Sandy Levesque had volunteered to plan the big opening some time ago. Mary will contact her and let her know that we now have a committee for that purpose.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 25th, 2010, 7:00 PM at the Library.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:17 PM.