

Notes of the Bethel Town Hall Restoration Committee
March 23, 2010, 7:00 PM
Bethel Library

In Attendance: Neal Fox, Chris Masters, Janet Burnham, Geneva Gaiko, Susie Fedak, Kep Taylor, Winslow, Rick Benson, Joe DeFreitas, Kevin Flynn, Mary Floyd, Carol DeFreitas

Neal opened the meeting at 7:00PM

Neal announced that a representative from the E. F. Wall Construction Co. will be speaking at the BBA meeting on April 7th if anyone is interested in attending.

Joe reported that he had gone to the 1st Construction Meeting on Tuesday. They are just finishing demolition of the first floor and in the first stages of drainage & assembly on the basement level. It was necessary to reinforce the floor joists and supports. Laminated beams were employed in some areas. They found some problems with drainage on the outside walls but will deal with that problem. Some changes have been made in the original plans and apparently this is not an uncommon occurrence in renovation construction. The first floor bathroom has been moved from an outside wall near the front of the building to an interior location along with a kitchenette area beside the bathroom. Further changes may be necessary as reconstruction progresses depending on what unforeseen problems they may encounter.

Joe passed around a picture that Victoria Webber had taken of the stenciling that had been found on the walls of the BTH as reconstruction had commenced on the second floor. It was agreed that we should preserve a part of the stenciled wall and perhaps at some future point possibly one of our local artists would like to donate their time to recreate the original stenciling on the walls.

Nick had been in a hall in Haverhill, NH, that had the type of stackable chairs that he thought we could use. The hall had purchased them about 5 years ago and the price at that time was: \$69.32ea/75 and \$57.99ea/175 chairs. They are called Maestro High Density and were purchased from a company in Burlington, VT. We will have to contact the company to find out if there are ganging devices for these chairs. Nick said that they were very comfortable chairs.

I found a website where you can see the chairs and it appears that they do have a ganging device for these chairs and they attach at the bottom. The price for 100 or more is \$52.95ea. http://www.adirondack.com/products/38/393/797/234/KI_Maestro_Stack_Chair.aspx

Nick also obtained prices for tables from Central Supplies. 5' Round tables are \$85 and 6' Folding tables are \$47. It was the general consensus of the Committee that round tables were preferred as they were more conducive to socializing. A 5' round table could seat 6 comfortably. A function with 200 people would require 33 tables.

Nick has been looking into commercial dishwashers with 3 minute cycles and came up with 2 from a company in Barre, VT. Prices were \$4,590.00 and \$5,770 (Hobart). This is an item that will probably go on to the Wish List.

Mary Floyd is donating a 10'-12' counter from the Bethel Brick Store and an old fashioned clothing rack.

Mary is also working on the Rules and Regulations for renting the hall and had noticed that some of the halls that she has looked into, that are town owned, have different rules for town residents than for an outsider. Other than maybe fees being different for a town resident, we could not see why rules should be different.

Nick said that the Bethel Historical Society has been fund raising for 5 years in anticipation of having a permanent home for their museum. Local people have said that they would donate their time towards this end if the BHS provides the necessary equipment.

Neal was asked again about the Grant from the USDA as far as how much it would be and he didn't have any concrete figure. It could be anywhere from 100K to 150K and will only be available after the project is completed.

Rick reiterated the need for us to get our Wish List organized and published in order to attract donors who would like to help out with this project. To that end the Kitchen & Furnishings Committee: Nick, Heidi, Kep & Suzie and the Light & Sound Committee: Kep and Joe are being asked to complete their wish list items and have them ready for the next meeting in April. We are going to need some fairly accurate prices so that potential donors will know exactly what their dollar commitment will be.

Geneva said that she had spoken to Mike Mills regarding information on fireproofing the BTH old curtain and that she will bring that information with her to the next meeting.

Kep said that Chandler still has the drapes that we had discussed at a prior meeting and he thought that we could have them for very little.

Mary had been in contact with Sandy Levesque and Sandy declined to organize the opening celebration as she has other commitments at this time.

Organizing another Silent Auction was discussed to raise money for the hall. The last one had 75 items and raised around \$4,700. It would be better if a permanent place could be found for the auction items as the last time they were carted around to various functions and it became a bit wearing. Everyone was asked to think about where a permanent display area could be set up. Willy-B had also donated the BBQ for the day of the auction. Amy Bergamo had set up a website whereby people who were interested in viewing the items could go, look and bid. Neal said that he would talk to Matt Washburn to see if Matt could do something similar if/when we decide to do another Silent Auction.

The meeting concluded at approximately 8:30PM and the next meeting is scheduled for April 29th, 2010, 7:00PM at the Library.