

**North School Preservation Society**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**April 6, 2021**  
*(in the warming hut)*

**Meeting was opened at 6:30 p.m. by President Richard Willard.**

**Attendees** –Richard Willard, Francine Provost, Ginny Ricker, Jo Robbins, Margery Burbank, Dave Hall, Fred and Linda Kingsbury, Andrea Cook.

**Minutes of November 3, 2020 meeting** – Ginny moved, Jo seconded, and all approved a motion to accept the minutes to our last meeting.

**Treasurer's Report** -- Ginny gave the treasurer's report summarizing reports from December 2020 through March 2021. Copies were distributed to the membership. Highlights for the period included membership contributions totaling \$570 (including \$500 donated by Kelly Flynn, to whom a thank you note was sent signed by Richard) and \$1,000 special online birthday donations for Richard Willard, as well as a donation of \$100 from Richard Willard and Richard Nault dedicated to the cost of window repairs. The treasury balance stands at \$20,480.79. The Treasurer's Report stands until audited.

Ginny presented the proposed budget for January through December 2021 for which printed copies were distributed. The estimates are projected based on the previous year's income and expenses. There was some discussion about reducing the cost of trash removal with a smaller dumpster and whether yard sale revenue may be limited by fewer yard sales, less manpower and possible limitations pending virus regulations. Nevertheless, the budget was motioned, seconded and optimistically approved as projected.

**Old Business**

**1. Building Repairs/Update**

- a. Windows: During the winter Dave repaired 17 windows. He stopped when he ran out of materials. When possible, he salvaged and reused available glass and other materials, but further repairs must wait for more supplies. He estimated that it costs approximately \$50 to repair each window. Based on the previous year's window budget, a motion was made by Francine and seconded by Jo to allocate \$1,200 for the remaining window repairs.
- b. Front Stairs: Dave boarded access to the broken front concrete stairs on the driveway side of the building. Dave thinks that the broken concrete stairs are repairable. He plans to consult a friend who is a mason and specialist with concrete repairs, Shorty, who recently retired from his job with the town. Dave hopes to encourage Shorty to help out with the repair of the steps and will notify us if so and provide an estimate.
- c. Slate roof repairs: Ginny asked that we control expenditures in light of upcoming slate roof repairs, for which we have yet to have an estimate. Richard will contact the roofing contractor who will repair the roof of the Baptist Church this

- year, and he will ask him to estimate the cost for repairs to the school roof, which it is hoped can be done in concert with the church roof repairs.
- d. **Basement ventilation:** Dave reported that he located and opened vents in the basement that had been sealed and were causing moisture problems in the cellar. He reports the basement is now dry. He also checked the old conveyor belt monopolizing a large portion of the basement. He suggests that it be removed so it can be sold, as it is of no use to the school and needs repairs. He anticipated that the removal will require a tractor and additional manpower, so it is hoped that Mo will assist with this project when he and Christy return to this area from Florida.
2. **Tech School Help?** Richard suggests that North School organization explore contacting the River Valley Technical Center for possible student help with various projects, such as some repairs, etc. He will try to contact them and notify us.
  3. **Volunteers:**
    - a. Andrea has scheduled help from a student volunteer who is completing the community service portion of the curriculum. The volunteer will assist Andrea sometime this month when available.
    - b. Dave provided us with a standard printed form for volunteers to sign as waivers when working with the North School organization. Jo has agreed to check it out and advise us on creating a form that suits our organization's needs.
    - c. Ginny's sister and her friend Tara, who reorganized the book room before the pandemic, have volunteered to continue to do so this year.

## **New Business**

### **1. Property Rental:**

- a. Alton Fulsom will be submitting a rental agreement to rent the park and hut for the Springfield Class of '66 reunion on June 19 from 2 to 10 p.m.
- b. Richard is being consulted by his graduation class about possibly renting the property for their reunion later in the season and he will keep us posted.

### **2. Brush Fire/Security**

- a. A brush fire on the upper property was extinguished by the Springfield Fire Department on March 17. Richard was told by a nearby resident that it could be seen from her back window, so he advised her and anyone else to call the police if a fire is detected in a place where it is prohibited. The fire was in the trail above and behind the playground, and, according to Dave, who checked on it, no serious damage was done. It was in a location out of range of our security cameras and was apparently started as campfire by local persons either playing or squatting. No culprits have been located.

3. **Member Updates:** The members in attendance asked about the well being of several absent members who normally attend (Dottie, Lara, Marion, Bill, and Richard's friend Regi, who has volunteered for projects at the school). Each of them has been experiencing serious ailments, although they were reported to be currently in stable condition. The members expressed wishes for their recovery.

4. **Secretary Position:** We are again in need of a recording secretary to take minutes at our meetings. Until a volunteer is found, Francine agreed to take the minutes.
5. **Tag Sales**
  - a. Pending pandemic restrictions, tag sales must be reinstated to provide revenue. However, in light of limited manpower, it was decided to begin by first scheduling a work day in May in which members could reorganize and prepare. May 22, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., was selected as a work day and also a day in which the building would be open to shoppers for limited visits in order to observe protocols. Pending an increased member workforce, the following dates were scheduled for regular tag sales open to the public (from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.): June 22; July 24; August 21; September 18; and, tentatively, October 16. Ginny recommended that the cashier's job be rotated to relieve one person from constant duty. It was agreed that everyone would share the position for part of each sale.
6. **Historical Preservation Status for North School:** Upon researching possible grants for the North School Preservation Society, Jo discovered that most grants require state and/or federal historic preservation eligibility. This status must be applied for and accepted before requests for grants can be reviewed and accepted. Consequently, Ginny and Francine volunteered to complete the application for this status. Ginny has compiled most of the information and photos to be submitted and will confer with Francine and the board prior to submitting it. Acceptance of the preservation status for the North School, should it be bestowed on the school, does not oblige our organization to apply for grants, although it will make us eligible to do so.
7. **Where do We Go Next?** Richard asks, given our budget, manpower, and projected income, what projects are feasible for us to tackle beyond contracting others to do it? Dave suggested painting the front portico columns. Richard said he will contact his neighborhood high school friends, known as "The Sisterhood," to see if they would be interested and willing to help. Members are encouraged to think of other such projects that are doable with volunteer help.

#### **Misc. and Other Business**

1. **Skating Rink:** Due to the loss of a regular employee at the Recreation Department and pandemic issues this past winter, the department was unable to regularly service the ice skating rink as in previous years. Therefore, Dave volunteered to fill, clear and maintain the rink this past winter. He also plowed around the rink and outside the hut as needed to keep it accessible and usable. His work did not go unnoticed: The ice rink was beautifully maintained and well used. In addition, Dave installed barriers borrowed from his own supply in order to keep car traffic off the rink.

2. It was reported that the Scouts who use the hut for meetings have been leaving the door unlocked and the lights on when they leave the building. Richard will contact the Scouts to advise them to lock up when they leave.
3. Margery presented the three plaques which Dave will install to identify the windows on the building which were restored thanks to donations from Marion Harlow and her family.

**Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.**

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***Next meeting: Tuesday, May 4, 6:30 p.m. in the warming hut. Social distancing and masks will be in effect during the meeting.***