

NORTH SCHOOL PRESERVATION SOCIETY

September 7, 2021 @ 6:30 PM

(in the warming hut)

MEETING MINUTES

Attendance: Richard Willard, Ginny Ricker, Francine Provost, Jo Robbins, Dave Hall, Moe and Christy Gilchrist

The meeting was called to order by Richard Willard at 6:32 p.m.

Minutes of the August 3 meeting were motioned and approved with one correction: The correct name of the market referred to in the August minutes should be “JC’s Market” in North Springfield.

Treasurer’s Report: Ginny presented the report for August, which was distributed to members. The treasury stands at \$17,266.38 after proceeds from the August yard sale minus current expenses and payment of the remaining repair of the roof membrane which was completed by Melanson Co. The report will stand for audit.

Old Business:

1. Building Repairs

a. The roof membrane repair was completed by Melanson Construction. Moe reviewed the membrane repair and deemed it well done. The cost of the repair matched the estimate that was given. Next year’s budget should be forecast to include repairs to the slate portion of the roof.

b. Windows – To date there are two windows remaining to be repaired on the first floor of the building: the windows in the library room (a.k.a. the “book room”). Dave has also begun reframing the basement windows, but those repairs must wait until next year when materials (including wood and heavy-duty screening) will be budgeted. Meanwhile, there are unspent allocated funds remaining for the two book room windows.

2. Historic Preservation Status

There was a brief discussion regarding possible funding sources to complete roof repairs and other repairs through town and state grants and preservation funds. Jo volunteered to email the Springfield town board to inquire about funds that may be available through pandemic and other grants. Ginny and Jo are also in the process of completing an application for state historic preservation status for the North School.

3. Dumpster

a. The pickups and size of the dumpster will remain as they are for the remainder of this season. It was decided that next year we will order a larger dumpster and make sure it comes with a lock.

b. Dave has been generously taking excess dumpster items to his own dumpster to relieve overflow of current dumpster we have.

4. Phone

a. The suggestion of installing a landline phone at the school building was discussed. It was recommended that such a phone could be installed in an outside “call box” which anyone could access for emergency calls. Ginny estimated the cost to be approximately \$600 a year. There was also some concern that an outside callbox could be misused or vandalized, so the members will reconsider this.

b. Dave suggested installing a cell phone booster antenna on the school which could make it more accessible for all cell phones. He estimated that such a device would cost about \$300 to \$400, a one-time cost once someone installed it, which he said he may be able to do himself. Moe reported that he and Christy installed a similar device at their camper but are not presently using it. They volunteered to bring it to the school and set it up before the

forthcoming yard sale on Sept. 18 so that members could test it and determine if it might be a workable option for emergency service at the school and park. Members were advised to bring their cell phones on that day to test them

5. Tag Sales

- a. The next scheduled tag sale is September 18, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.; work day Sept. 17, 2 p.m. Some members, including Francine and Ginny, will not be available. Richard volunteered to recruit two friends to come to the sale and help out. Ginny suggested that we remove the Easter items from the Holiday Room and rid ourselves of them so we can feature autumn and Halloween items instead. Ginny also suggested a work day for the following day (Wednesday, Sept. 8) to handle this and other inside organizational jobs.
- b. The final tag sale of the year is tentatively set for Saturday, Oct. 16 with a setup day prior (Oct. 15). Members will discuss this at the October meeting as weather may be a factor for a sale in October.

New Business

1. Warming Hut Keys for Renters

In order to make the hut available for those renting the park and premises for events, it was suggested that coordination be established for each renter in order to have keys to the hut or otherwise have access. When a rental contract is accepted, Richard will arrange for someone to either open the hut or have keys available on an ad hoc basis. It will also be necessary to arrange for the hut to be cleaned and prepared in advance.

Miscellaneous Business

1. VAST Use of the Property

Dave reported that, so far, the Vermont Association of Snow Travelers has been unable to get the necessary permits for road crossings that would access the North School Recreation Park. Consequently, NSPS has not heard from VAST, nor has a VAST member attended our meetings to secure the use of our property for snowmobile travel. If VAST can't get the required road crossing permits, the use of NSPS property will not be possible.

Adjournment: The business being concluded, a motion was made and approved to adjourn the meeting at 7:46 p.m.

Next meeting: Tuesday, October 5, 2021, 6:30 p.m. in the warming hut.