

NORTH SCHOOL PRESERVATION SOCIETY

October 5, 2021 @ 6:30 PM

(in the warming hut)

MEETING MINUTES

Attendance: Richard Willard, Ginny Ricker, Francine Provost, Dave Hall, Moe and Christy Gilchrist, Margery Burbank

The meeting was called to order by Richard Willard at 6:30 p.m.

Minutes of the September 7 meeting were motioned and approved.

Treasurer's Report: Ginny presented the report for September, which was distributed to members. The treasury stands at \$18,641.32 after donations and proceeds from the September yard sale minus current. The report will stand for audit.

Old Business

1. Dumpster

Christy reported that the dumpster was overflowing. She has been negotiating with the waste hauler, Ruggiero, due to the fact that the lock for the dumpster which had been promised was never installed. Therefore, NS was not charged for the overage on the latest pickup. The next pickup is scheduled for Oct. 19, the last pickup. Next year's budget will include the cost of a larger dumpster (with a lock, which should be included).

2. Building Repair

Dave reported that all the upstairs and other windows are completed except for the auditorium windows, two windows in the book room and one window under the stairs. He wants to stop water from getting into the front windows on either side of the front entrance. It is a work in progress. He estimates that the painting over the front porch will be completed before winter.

3. Telephone

Moe and Christy tested the installation of a booster antenna to determine if it would help with cell signals at the school and park, but it was unsuccessful. A discussion returned to the installation of a landline in a call box mounted outside the school. There are reservations regarding access to it in an emergency, possible vandalism and ongoing expense. Christy volunteered to call VTel to ask about the feasibility of installing a "911" callbox for emergency use. She will report back on it.

4. Preservation status and grant applications

Ginny reported that she and Jo are completing an application to the Preservation Trust of Vermont to enable the North School to be designated an historical building eligible for state grants for construction. This is a work in progress.

5. Spring Fling Fundraiser

Much discussion followed this topic. The event has been proposed to encompass a multitude of invited nonprofit groups setting up respective booths in order to conduct their individual fundraisers during the first regularly scheduled NS yard sale in May 2022. It was thought that such an event, while not providing any fees to North School, would, however, bring widespread activity and attention to the school and park.

Members questioned the demands the event would entail for our organization, such as the need for access to power sources for cooking and entertainment participants, the need for extra parking facilities and possibly parking attendants, and overall advance publicity and management, all of

which would put a heavy burden on our core members, who would simultaneously be conducting the first yard sale of the season.

Members present agreed that the proposal had merit; however, most felt that the scope of the event should be limited. It was proposed that our organization continue to include a fundraising event in the 2022 schedule, with the provision that the event be coordinated with a theme that would enhance one of our yard sales and feature complementary participants, such as an “Art in the Park” theme in which local and other artists would be invited to display and sell their work while the North School would feature its art merchandise for sale. Entertainment and other participants would be welcome. More events could be scheduled at other times. It was also suggested that the event not be scheduled for the first yard sale of the season, but rather later in the year when these plans could better coalesce. This subject will continue to be carried over, planned and discussed during upcoming meetings.

6. Tag Sale

The final tag sale of the season will be held on Saturday, Oct. 16, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Due to the recent rise in virus cases, masks will be required for everyone indoors. Members will meet for setup on Friday, Oct. 15 at 2 p.m. It was decided to re-feature Christmas items outside, perhaps including a \$1/bag for some of them.

New Business

1. Annual Meeting

The annual meeting will be held on Tuesday, Dec. 7, at 6 p.m. in the warming hut. This meeting is our biannual meeting to elect officers. A slate of proposed officers will be available at the November meeting.

2. Proposed Slate of Officers

The current officers will be nominated to continue their respective positions. There is also a need to reconsider current trustees and honorary trustees. The position of secretary remains unfilled and nominations are welcome.

3. Committees

When the NS organization was established, there were many members available to participate in committees. Currently there are too few core members to allocate to separate committees. Until feasible, however, there are members performing as de facto committees (Moe, Christy and Dave, building committee; Ginny, membership committee; Jo, publicity committee). Formal committee assignments are waived pending participation by more members.

Adjournment: The business being concluded, a motion was made and approved to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m.

Next meeting: Tuesday, November 2, 2021, 6:30 p.m. in the warming hut.