

NORTH SCHOOL PRESERVATION SOCIETY

November 2, 2021 @ 6:30 PM

(in the warming hut)

MEETING MINUTES

Attendance: Richard Willard, Ginny Ricker, Francine Provost, Dave Hall, Margery Burbank, Jo Robbins

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

Minutes of the October 5 meeting were motioned and approved.

Treasurer's Report: Ginny presented the report for October, which was distributed to members. The treasury stands at \$19,981.93 after donations and proceeds from the October yard sale minus current expenses. The report will stand for audit.

Old Business

1. Dumpster

The dumpster was filled and removed for the season in October. A suggestion was made to get estimates from various haulers before automatically re-contracting with Ruggiero in 2022. In the past, however, Ruggiero was the only available hauler that agreed to provide a 6-month contract.

2. Building Repair

Dave reported that three windows remain to be completed. He will repair them as time, energy and weather conditions permit, possibly before the winter arrives.

3. Telephone

After checking with VTel, Christy reported to Ginny that VTel does not provide emergency-only 9-1-1 telephones and no special discounts are given to nonprofit organizations. The issue of a landline telephone was tabled until 2022.

4. Annual Meeting

Nominations for two-year terms of office were made for presentation and votes at the annual meeting on Dec. 7 as follows:

President – Richard Willard

Vice President -- Francine Provost

Treasurer – Ginny Ricker

Secretary (tentative nomination pending consultation) – Lara Houghton-Robinson

Trustees – Margery Burbank, Jo Robbins, Dave Hall (An honorary trusteeship was recommended for Chip Woods.)

The annual meeting on Dec. 7 will be conducted in the warming hut and members may bring refreshments. All members are invited.

5. Holiday Tag Sale

After discussion and a vote of members present, it was decided to forgo a holiday tag sale in the warming hut this year due to uncertainty regarding the rise in virus cases and protocols in a limited space; a lack of members to set up, man and take down the sale; and the uncertainty of the weather in late November and early December. However, it was recommended that North School post on its Facebook site that members will be available to make appointments with individual shoppers who wish to shop the premises during times the building would otherwise be closed. Jo volunteered to do the FB post.

New Business

1. Annual Membership Letter

Ginny will be composing an annual membership letter to be sent in advance of the annual meeting. She will confer with Francine and Richard in drafting it.

2. Budget Suggestions

Anticipating looming expenses in 2022, suggestions were made to draft the yearly budget with an eye to the need for the remaining repair of the slate portion of the building roof. This expense was tentatively suggested when NSPS contracted with the Melanson Co. to estimate the cost of the roof repair in two installments: the repair of the rubber membrane on the center portion of the roof and subsequently the repair of the surrounding slate portion of the roof. The rubber membrane was repaired this past year; the slate portion needs to be addressed in a timely way. It was suggested that contractors in general are currently scheduling work at least a year in advance, so it is recommended that new estimates and contracts be sought before the beginning of 2022.

In the meantime, Dave has determined that the front and rear entrances to the building are relatively solid and can be addressed at a later time, although he anticipates that the front pillars can be scraped and painted and the doors can be painted without the need of hired contractors.

Miscellaneous Business

Ginny has notified us that the NSPS dedicated computer is “on life support.” She has consulted with Ken at Ken’s Computers in Springfield. He replaced a battery in the 15-year-old computer, but a major other battery needs to be replaced soon. He is trying to locate one, but it is recommended that the computer be replaced instead. Ken is willing to seek out a reconditioned reliable computer to replace our failing computer. Ginny estimated that the cost of replacement of the computer as well as installation of updated programs may cost up to \$500 and is a necessary expense for us to maintain past, current and future data and function. A motion was made by Jo, seconded by Margery and passed unanimously to allocate up to \$500 for these expenses.

Adjournment: The business being concluded, a motion was made and approved to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

Next meeting (Annual Meeting): Tuesday, December 7, 2021, 6 p.m. in the warming hut.