

**North School Preservation Society**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**March 7, 2023**

Attendance: Francine Provost, Ginny Ricker, Dave Hall, Richard Willard; Margery Burbank; Andrea Cook

Francine called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

**Minutes**

December meeting minutes were motioned and approved.

**Treasurer's Report**

Ginny distributed treasurer's reports to members. The reports included the February, 2023, monthly report as well as the budget overview for 2023. After expenses and income for February, the treasury stands at \$14,640.24.

Ginny reviewed the projected budget for 2023, which was compiled conservatively. Based on annual expenditures and income and not including major anticipated expenditures, the organization hopes to realize a minimum year-over-year income of \$3,796.50. Some expenses may evolve, although the anticipated dumpster expense will reflect a smaller dumpster, and mailing expenses and increased expense for publicity may be needed. Property and liability insurance may increase as it has done each successive year.

Members approved the budgets which will stand for audit.

**Old Business**

-- Update on Winter Grounds and Building Maintenance

Dave gave an update on winter grounds maintenance in which he has continued to shovel the ramp and make paths with his snowblower. He was unable to fill the skating rink due to a lack of consistently frozen temperatures. There have also been lapses in plowing by the recreation department, and the driveway had not been plowed in the previous two

snowstorms. Francine will contact Chris Merrill to coordinate recreation department services as previously discussed with him last year.

Dave also updated the members on other grounds maintenance. He discussed the status of the upper fields, where he has completed cutting bush and disposing of the bush and debris. He also alerted the members to an infestation of carpenter ants in the front walls leading to the basement of the school building. He recommends an exterminator before repairs can be done. He has contacted Chris Densmore of Terminex and will provide us with an estimate for the service.

Dave alerted the members to the need for a new U.S. flag on the front flagpole. Margery offered to provide one she can donate.

There are also some issues which Dave is addressing in the hut. The wood stove and overhead lights need to be replaced, and the window in the hut needs to be fixed, although there is a temporary barrier on it at present.

#### -- Update on Winter Activities

Several groups enjoyed sledding, sliding and winter activities on the hill behind the hut at the park. The Weathersfield School enjoyed several Friday afternoon sledding parties and the Assembly of God Church enjoyed a winter event there. Dave ensured that grounds were accessible and supervised and Ginny coordinated activities with the Weathersfield school secretary, BJ Esty.

#### -- Update on November Vandalism incident

Dave contacted Geico Insurance regarding the vehicular damage done in November to the stone wall along the driveway at the school. He received quotes for repairs from Creative Contours (\$5,815) and GK Brown Trucking and Excavating (\$7,600). The job is pending.

### **New Business**

#### -- May 2023 Yard Sale

May 13, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. was set as the date for the first North School yard sale of the season. Setup day will be Friday, May 12, noon-2 p.m. Much advance work is needed to sort, clean and price the merchandise which was received at the end of last year. Andrea volunteered with the help of Margery. Other members will work as their schedules permit.

Members will discuss dates for subsequent yard sales at the April meeting.

-- February Meeting with Bob Flint of the Springfield Regional Development Corporation

In February, Francine and Ginny met with SRDC Director Bob Flint to explore possibilities for development of the school building. Bob suggested that our members decide what the best use for the building would be so that we might present our recommendation to him, at which time he would enlist the town to do a feasibility study, the first step in future development.

The members discussed the following mixed use possibilities:

A music school/recital hall

A thrift store

A downstairs coffee shop

A senior center

Offices for health and human services and other rental office spaces, including an office space for NSPS business and archives

Rental apartments

Francine and Ginny will coordinate these suggestions and meet with Bob to make a coherent proposal.

### **Miscellaneous Business**

No miscellaneous business was suggested.

The meeting was motioned and adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

*Next Meeting, Tuesday, April 4, 6:30 p.m. in the warming hut.*