

Bromfield House Committee
December 16, 2020
7pm
Zoom Meeting

Members Present: Rich Maiore, Pat Jennings, Steven Ford, Pam Marston, Susan Mary Redinger, Bill Ference

Public in attendance: Pete Jackson, Jim Lee, Kathleen Dougherty

Rich Maiore called the meeting to order at 8:03pm.

Members introduced themselves and explained their interest in being on the committee.

Pete Jackson from the Bromfield Trustees introduced himself.

Mr. Maiore reviewed the timeline of work ahead as well as the expectations. The SB is asking us to present a plan for approval by the town at the spring annual town meeting. He advised the committee that any request for funds would need to be submitted to the SB in March in order to be put on the warrant in time.

Mr. Maiore recommended meeting every other week in January and February and members were aligned. The next two meetings will be January 13th and January 27th; both at 7pm.

Mr. Maiore asked if any members would like to chair the committee.

Ms. Redinger nominated Mr. Maiore as chair, Ms. Jennings seconded. By roll call the vote the committee voted unanimously to approve the motion.

Mr. Ference offered to act as vice-chair. Ms. Redinger moved to nominate Mr. Ference as vice-chair, Ms. Marston seconded. By roll call vote the committee voted unanimously to approve the motion.

Mr. Maiore suggested setting some guiding criteria for our work. The one criteria the SB has already set forth is that our final option cannot be to refurbish the building due to the cost already identified by previous reviews of the building. Ms. Redinger cited the Galeota report, the summary prepared by Keith Cheverall and another structural engineering report all focused on the Bromfield House. Ms. Redinger will send out copies of those documents to all members.

The SB did vote 3-2 in favor of keeping the option of selling the land/building as is as a possible outcome of the committee's work.

Members discussed other possible criteria and came up with the following:

- Whatever is proposed must take into account the look and feel of the area and should be consistent with the historical character
- The cost of any option should be kept in line with the financial constraints of the town. Other funding avenues should be explored (private, grants, etc.)
- Recurring costs should also be taken into account to minimize the financial impact to the town
- Any ideas should be reviewed for their environmental impact.
- Options should be reviewed in terms of their functional benefit to the town with the intention of maximizing the benefit for all residents
- Options should also be reviewed for sustainability and be long lasting.

Mr. Ferrence offered to spearhead the media effort to collect ideas from people across town using social media, the Press, COA events, schools. Ms. Redinger suggested creating a survey to capture ideas with a link up on the town website. Ms Jennings suggested getting a photo of the BH in the Press to encourage responses.

Mr. Ferrence will propose a plan and write up materials for review/approval at our January 13th meeting.

Mr. Lee requested that documents be made available to the public. Mr. Maiore agreed to have a page set up on the town website and will get documents posted there.

The intent is to make this work as transparent and as public as possible so that residents feel as if they have been included in the process and are knowledgeable about the proposal when it comes before them at ATM.

Ms. Redinger made a motion to adjourn. Ms Marston seconded. By roll call vote the motion was passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:02pm.

Submitted respectfully,

SusanMary Redinger