

Bromfield House Committee
January 13, 2021
7pm
Zoom Meeting

Members Present: Rich Maiore, Steven Ford, Pam Marston, SusanMary Redinger, Bill Ference, Pat Jennings (joined at 7:06pm)

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

Rich Maiore called the meeting to order at 7:04pm.

Bill walked everyone through the document he created with the parameters, process, outreach strategy, survey for idea submission and action steps. Bill asked if we could put some dates into a timeline for our work together.

The basic process would be to gather ideas, determine feasibility of ideas, get public input on the ideas, review and align on a recommendation to present to the SB and ultimately to ATM.

The committee agreed upon the importance of setting a timeline.

Ideas would be sought out by approaching the town boards, committees, and clubs/organizations; posting on NextDoor; putting an article in the Harvard Press.

Liaisons were assigned to reach out to the following entities. Members were asked to send something out this week. Submissions are due so that we can review in time for our next meeting.

NextDoor: Bill/Rich
Harvard Press: Rich
Historical Commission: Pam
Council on Aging: Pat
Cultural Council: Rich
Parks and Rec: SusanMary
Conservation Commission: Rich
School Committee: SusanMary
Select Board: Rich
SEPAC: Bill
Women's Club: Pat
Garden Club: Pat
Library Board: SusanMary
Harvard PTO: SusanMary
Harvard Family Association: SusanMary

Harvard Schools Trust: SusanMary
Bromfield Trustees: Stephen
Town website: Rich

Responses can be collected via a Google survey. Survey will include:

- General overview
- Open response
- Demographics (to make sure we're reaching various age groups)

Be sure to include in the opening paragraph that (per the SB) the town will not invest in bringing the building up to code and making structural and cosmetic repairs; the town has no use for the building and does not want to retain ownership of the building; the remaining land/building must have an educational use.

A suggestion was made to include some seed options, e.g.: selling the house and land to a private owner; selling/moving the house while retaining the land; demolition of the house and conversion of the property to public usage in the form of a park.

All ideas should be funneled into the google form so that we don't have data in multiple places.

Next steps: Bill and Rich to finalize wording on the preamble for the survey. Bill will create the survey and send out the link to members so they can reach out to their assigned groups to solicit feedback.

The group discussed setting a deadline for responses and agreed on a two week deadline (Jan 27th).

At the Jan 27th meeting the committee would review the ideas and discuss viability/feasibility.

At the first meeting in February (2/10) the committee will align on a vetted list of options which will go out in a second survey.

Bill will work out a timeline for the work to be done up until Town meeting (exact date of which is TBD). Rich will support that work with regards to any financial deadlines involved.

Rich will work on getting something in the Press next week.

Pam will reach out to the assessors and the conservation trust about establishing a deed restriction on the house; she'll also look into the process/parameters of extending the historical district to include the Bromfield House. Rich will reach out

to a realtor to inquire about the impact of various deed restrictions on the sale of the house. He will also look into expanding the historical district.

The committee discussed the idea of an outdoor learning space which would fit with the Bromfield Trust requirement of an educational use and would benefit the schools.

SusanMary indicated that a resident had expressed interest in the house and had done some research into moving the house. They had determined that it was possible and financially reasonable. SusanMary agreed to touch base with that resident and see if they were willing to share any of that information with the committee.

The sale of the house needs to be thought through with regards to timing. Any recommendation would have to include a timeframe (e.g. offer up the house for sale/move first and if no buyers expressed interest then you'd move to selling the house/land, or to demolition.)

Bill will send out a survey link and an updated document.

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:26pm.

Submitted respectfully,

SusanMary Redinger