

Grand View Farm Advisory Committee Meeting - Wed. Jan. 27, 2010

The meeting was held in the Town Hall Annex.

Attending were members: Co-chairman Nick Rubino, Treasurer Kevin McKelvey, Janet Atkinson, Brenda Cahoon, Toni Faria, Kathi Horton, Bill McDonough, Hope Paulsen

Guests were Town Administrator Bob Mercier, and Historical Commission Co-chair Mike Tredeau.

1. Minutes - the minutes of the October 28, 2009 meeting were accepted as read.

2. Treasurer's report - Kevin McKelvey

Previous Total funds in Northern Bank and Trust Checking Account - \$56,305.39

Less funds earmarked for the buy a Brick Program - 3,000.00

Total funds available - \$53,939.58

See attached full report.

3. Interior Shawsheen Status (taken out of order) –

Grand View and “Shawsheen” status was discussed by Town Administrator Bob Mercier, Sonia Rollins and Walter Zenkin. SEA is working with Shawsheen Tech on the interior of Grand View. The design is 70% complete. Next week a meeting with SEA and Tom Hickey will take place.

The work is delayed due to Local 12 Plumbing and Gas Fitting Union who are planning a suit against the town because of the work being done by the Shawsheen students. Shawsheen Tech will start the permitting process and wait to see what the state decides on the issue. We will look for Shawsheen Tech support from Charles Murphy on the outcome. The Shawsheen permit will be issued next week. A Strike from the unions is problematic because of the sequence of the work being done at Grand view. The electrical work must be done at the same time as the plumbing

4. Barn Replication Status

\$800,000 is for the barn - it will have heat, light and will be usable when it is done. The houses on S. Bedford Street will be sold and Gutierrez may be interested in the land. The new barn will replicate the old one. It will seat approximately 200 people, include a kitchen, bath, mezzanine, and sky lights. The Grand View sign will be restored to the front of the barn and will be in capital letters. Possible publicity in the papers will be done by Judy Wasserman.

5. Grant update - Walter Zenkin

Walter presented an explanation of the possible \$500,000 grant to be obtained by Mr. Ernest Zabolotney. He spoke of several meetings to begin the process. The grant would join with the Bike Path group for the possible Transportation Grant, and would include the term Museum, a coach for display and furnishings for the interior. Mr. Zabolotney suggested that in accordance with the requisites of the grant, Dan McCormack, Town Archivist would fill the requirement for a curator. It was pointed out that there is a hiring freeze and the hiring of a *full time* curator would not be likely. Once again it was pointed out that Mr. Zabolotney attended a meeting of The Historical Commission for support of the plan. He was given the support at that time. He did not seek the support of the Grand View committee.

Both Kevin McKelvey and Brenda Cahoon spoke strongly against the plan for the grant application because the Grand View Committee was not informed of the plan. Brenda pointed out that for eight years the committee has worked for a reuse of the Grand View. To have the grant applied for a Museum, without the inclusion of the committee, was a break in the protocol. Mr.

Zabolotney should have worked with the Grand View committee. Also she felt that his appearance with Mike Tredeau of the Historical Commission before the Board of Selectmen at citizen's time with his idea for the grant was wrong, and should have been shared with the Grand View committee. All agreed it should have been an agenda item.

Brenda then cited an instance at Town Meeting where she had to defend the purpose of the Grand View committee with a Town meeting member. Selectman Zenkin explained the meeting preceding the Selectman's meeting, and his participation in the plan, thinking that it was a plan that would benefit the Grand View project. He asked the committee if they wanted Mr. Zabolotney to pursue the grant. They said no, and a motion was made and carried "not to pursue the grant." Co-chairman Nick Rubino will write a summary of the motion and contact Mr. Zabolotney.

The committee spoke of assuring the public that we getting back on course,

6. Buy a Brick - Bill McDonough

Phase two - We now have sold 27 4x8 bricks and five 8x8 bricks. Three brought in cash and two as gifts. Gove Sleeper and Bernice Sleeper now have bricks.

7. Commemorative Items - Janet Atkinson

Space is needed to store items. Brenda donated a quilt to the High School. A discussion followed about the sale of the remaining items. A one day sale with reduced prices was suggested. All agreed a flyer distributed town wide with a coupon attached may be an idea.

New suggestions were having tee shirts, tank tops, polo shirts and pajama bottoms made to sell. Also using the wood recovered from Grand View barns to turn into items to sell. Perhaps including the Grand View logo on the wood.

8. Newspaper and TV coverage –

Judy will write an article on the SEA presentation on the 10th.

9. Web site - Amy Warfield and Rob Zahora

10. Corporate "Large Donors" –

We need to get larger donations to help the Grand View effort. Beverly Vidoli will be asked to come to the next meeting.

11. Fund Raising Event –

Several ideas were discussed for fund raising events. Sonia will pursue the use of the Escadrille for a Mystery night, or other function.

12. Old Business and New Business.

The meeting closed at 9 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Toni Faria

At the February 24th meeting the minutes of the January meeting were presented and asked to be accepted. Kevin McKelvey requested that the following information be included in the minutes, as they were omitted from the recorded minutes of the meeting.

"Kevin McKelvey objected to pursuing the grant because, among other prerequisites, approval of

the grant required the Town to “have at least one full time paid professional staff member who has museum knowledge and experience and is delegated (line item) authority and allocated museum knowledge and experience and is delegated line item authority and allocated financial resources sufficient to operate the museum effectively”; and who must in addition to other requirements, present regularly scheduled programs and exhibits....”