

Board of Selectmen
Meeting Minutes
January 13, 2021
Virtual Meeting

Present: Selectboard Chair Diana Szynal, Edmund Jaworski and Brian Moriarty

Also, in attendance: Kathie Gow, Museum Curator; Community Preservation Committee Members Bob Wagner and John Wilkes; DPW/Facilities Director Phil Genovese; Historical Commission Chair Amy Hahn; Historical Society President Bob Osley; John Pease; Town Administrator Marlene Michonski.

Chairwoman Szynal called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm that evening's discussion is intended to be a working meeting among the Community Preservation Committee, Historical Commission and Historical Society.

Kathie Gow is the Curator for the Museum and is compensated for overseeing inventory of the artifact collections. There are collections on display on the top floor of the Hatfield Public Library that Kathie manages.

Discussion included the current storage of the Town's historical collections and use of space in Town Hall on the second floor. Mr. Wagner gave an overview of the funds the Community Preservation Committee has funded in support of the Museum's use of space in Town Hall as voted by a previous Board of Selectmen.

The Selectboard supports the additional space necessary for the Museum.

Historical Commission Chairwoman Hahn expressed the support of the Commission that the Museum be on the second floor. Suggesting a compromise, Chairwoman Hahn asked if a room is available to store the collections currently at Bensons Storage, it would allow the Curator access and to check on the artifacts. However, Chairwoman Hahn shared concern about the issue with the steam pipes located upstairs and potential for damage.

Selectman Jaworski estimates \$250,000 for additional work to bring the second floor up to adequate climate control. Public access will also require work in the bathroom on that floor. Currently, the boiler system in the Town Hall is not heating the second floor very well due to some work done on a condensation pipe during the building renovations. Referring to whether the Town is willing to have the Museum on the second floor and fund the costs, Selectman Jaworski said it is a question for town meeting.

Mr. Genovese, DPW/Facilities Director, questioned if it would be in the best interest of moving some of the collections to the second floor before the construction work that will be done on that floor.

The Selectboard reiterating the need for a working group to be represented by one member from Community Preservation Committee, Historical Commission, Historical Society, and

Selectboard, have a few meetings as soon as possible and work through some ideas and come up with a recommendation.

Board concluded business. A motion was made by Member Jaworski and seconded by Member Moriarty to adjourn the meeting at 7:21 p.m.

Respectfully,

Marlene Michonski
Town Administrator

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