Windham Meeting House Transition Committee

April 8 2019

Attendees: Dawn Bower, Russ Cumming, John Hoover, Louise Johnson, Tom Johnson, Keith Jungermann Alternate, Peter Newton, Kord Scott, Absent: Kathy Scott

Called to order at 5:10 pm

Kord Scott distributed a two page memorandum from the Town’s attorney, Robert M. Fisher, detailing the ownership history which started in 1801 and the creation of the Meeting House as the location for the Town’s annual meetings. See the attached memorandum.

A motion was made by Kord Scott for Dawn Bower to be the Chair, seconded by Louise Johnson, vote, unanimous.

A motion was made by Kord for Russ Cumming for secretary, seconded by Keith Jungermann, vote, unanimous.

A discussion ensued concerning the items raised by Atty. Fisher about the transfer of title of the Meeting House to the Town. Dawn Bower offered to talk to Dave Crittenden to see if he would be the one to sign the Quit Claim deed (as suggested in Atty. Fishers’ memorandum) from the Church to the Town to complete the legal transfer of ownership of the Meeting House to the town of Windham.

A discussion of the need to have a town wide meeting to disclose to the voters the estimated annual cost of operating the meeting house disclosed that clear estimates need to be determined for:

* Heating and Propane
* Electric
* Property Insurance
* Phone and Internet
* Central Station Alarm monitoring
* Lawn Mowing and snow plowing
* Cleaning services
* Piano and organ maintenance
* Elevator Service Contract
* Annual Septic service

Dawn Bower will contact Dave Crittenden to gather historic costs and Russ Cumming will contact the known vendors for their estimates for this coming year. A number around $16,000 was floated as an amount that had been mentioned in past conversations with Church members.

A discussion concerning “The Friends of the Meeting House”, a 501 (c ) (3) ( heretofor “Friends”) formed to raise funds for the exterior maintenance of the building, to be re-energized and constituted to do future fundraising was agreed to by Dawn Bower and Peter Newton They will renew the tax-exempt status and file the appropriate forms to complete this so a fundraising effort may be started. It is important that the “Friends” be separate from the “Town” in this fundraising effort.

Dawn Bower presented a piece of information concerning a past gift to the Meeting House by a Windham resident to supply funds for the “summer Camp” at the meeting house for children. As reported by Dawn any remaining funds would revert to the “Friends” if the Church disbanded. Dawn will provide this documentation at the next meeting.

Peter Newton briefly discussed the condition of the physical building. The areas of concern were front entrance way i.e. the wooden decking, and the rear deck. The front deck entrance will need some repair and maintenance. The deck in the rear should be removed and a small “stoop” with railing and stairs constructed. The division of the cost between the town and the “Friends” will need to be worked out before work commences.

Windham Meeting House Transition Committee

April 8. 2019 Page 2

A discussion concerning the disposition of the Church’s property, i.e. religious items, 2 organs, 2 pianos, hymnals, communion items, etc. will need to be discussed and resolved as soon as possible. Dawn will speak with Dave Crittenden to move this item forward as promptly as possible. It may be that time is needed to complete this portion and storage space may be provided for the interim.

Next meeting April 22 2019, 6:00 PM

Russ motioned to adjourn at 5:55 pm, seconded by Kord, Vote was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Russ Cumming, Secretary