

**Bethel Town Hall Restoration Committee Meeting
December 10, 2009
Bethel Library**

In Attendance: Neal Fox, Maryanne Batcheller, Chris Masters, Geneva Gaiko, Mary Floyd, Heidi & Nick Nikolaidis, Paul Feeney & his son, Joe & Carol DeFreitas

Neal opened the meeting at 7:10 PM.

Neal related the details of the meeting that Neal, Del Cloud, & Joe attended in Colchester with Laz Scangas to determine at what stage the plans were presently. Laz assured them that the specs were completed, had gone to the photographer and will be mailed out to the bidders tomorrow (Dec. 12, 2009). The bids are to be in to the Town Offices by Jan. 12th, 2010, and the lowest bidder will be picked at that time. Construction will begin shortly after and the building will be posted with signs letting the residents of Bethel know that the restoration is finally underway. Neal explained that there were 25-30 FDA required criteria to be met by the potential bidders on the Town Hall Renovation Project. The Select Board and Del Cloud feel very comfortable with any one of the bidders that remained after weeding out the ones that didn't meet all the criteria required by the FDA.

It was Neal's suggestion that Janet Burnham, Joe, Neal and Rick Benson of the Finance Committee meet in January to discuss reconnecting with some of the possible larger funders for the project to see if they would be interested in contributing additional monies to the project.

Maryanne addressed the group with a request for a 50' X 50' area for the Bethel Food Shelf. An area that large may not be possible as there has already been space requested by the Bethel Historical Society. Maryanne asked if someone would be willing to take her into the basement of the Town Hall to see what the available space actually looks like. She feels that they need more space than what they presently have as their client base has grown from about 30 households a month to 80 recently. She will need space for freezers, refrigerators, shelving for goods and storage space for inventory.

Paul Feeney inquired as to funding for chairs and Neal explained that the FDA financing thru grants beyond what we have to borrow is possible. There may be as much as \$200,000, but that is not definitive. The FDA is not forthcoming in committing themselves. Paul will make inquiries with his church for chairs as they recently replaced the ones they had which are capable of being attached to one another as required by fire code. Paul also recommended that we look into the State Surplus building on Rte 2 in Waterbury for other items the Town Hall may need: shelving, used kitchen equipment, etc.

Paul recommended that we should find a way to recognize the people who have donated to this renovation project. This should be a subject for discussion at a future meeting.

It was suggested that at the next meeting a committee be formed to come up with usage rules and regulations and a Policy and Procedure manual for hall renters. A suggestion was made to put an ad in the paper in January informing people that we have openings on several committees related to moving the project forward. To get the full earning potential of the hall it was noted that alcohol would have to be allowed. The legalities would be covered if a licensed bartender was hired by the renter or catering service. Neal felt that the employees at the Town Office could handle the actual Hall rental and that volunteers could be scheduled to check and

make sure that the Hall was kept clean between rentals. Renters would be required to clean up after themselves and their Security Deposit forfeited if they do not leave the Hall in acceptable condition.

Paul also recommended that the Hall be set up for media equipment usage as they have found that to be essential at the Conference Room in the Bethel State Police Barracks. He stated that they have so many requests for the use of their facilities that they have to turn people away. This could work to the advantage of the Bethel Town Hall if we were on their list of alternatives.

Radiant heat will be in the new cement floor to be poured in the basement and Neal would like to see radiant heat for the upstairs level also, but that has not been decided upon as yet. Shutters on the inside of the windows would help keep the Hall cooler in the summer months and warmer in the winter.

It was mentioned that Pen Dimock, Donna Nelson and Louie Gaiko were among the original group to campaign for the renovation of the Bethel Town Hall and that Davis Dimock continued in his mother's footsteps.

Mary Floyd noted that Kelly Brown and John O'Farrell would like to be kept apprised of the progress being made regarding the BTH project and asked to have the Minutes emailed to them. Mary will provide Carol with the email addresses.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM

The next meeting is scheduled for January 28th, 2010, 7:00 PM, at the Library.