

MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING APRIL 17, 2014

Chairman Walter called the meeting to order at the Town Offices at 10 AM with Mr. Smith present. Mr. Chabot was absent. Worcester Telegram and Gazette correspondent Brad Miner was also present.

Mrs. Walter stated that the Selectmen's office received an e-mail from Jeff Samuelson regarding his intention to re-install the Town House Bell Tower on May 17th. Mr. Samuelson did not speak with the Selectmen beforehand, although he did state at the library presentation last week that he was looking at the week before Memorial Day.

Mr. Smith said that after the Selectmen's meeting in December when the Friends of the Town House questioned when the tower would be installed he spoke with Mr. Samuelson about this, and it was agreed that Mr. Samuelson's technical considerations would take priority over the planning of the event. When Mr. Smith attended the Boyden presentation at the library two weeks ago he was surprised when Mr. Samuelson mentioned the May 17th date.

Mrs. Walter noted that she has been attending meetings with the Friends, and at the meeting this past Monday there was discussion about a conversation between the Friends and Albert Rex of MacRostie Historic Advisors. Mr. Rex mentioned that he would be attending a hearing in Washington, D. C. about potential changes to the tax credit program at the federal level. While in Washington Mr. Rex spoke with Congressman Jim McGovern, and the congressman expressed his great interest in the Town House project and in being here for the tower reinstallation. Mr. Rex sent Mr. Samuelson an e-mail asking if the reinstallation could be done in June when the congressman would be available.

Mr. Smith asked about the status of the work on the dormers? Mrs. Walter stated that at the December 3rd Selectmen's meeting this was discussed, and that the borrowing by the Treasurer had already occurred because the borrowing was combined with another project in order to save money. At that December 3rd meeting Mr. Samuelson brought some paperwork from the Town of Spencer regarding hiring town contractors as a way to eliminate the need to bid a project. Mr. Smith did speak with Adam Gaudette of Spencer about this, and was informed that this procedure is for small emergency projects, and large project such as the Town House would have to go out to bid. Mr. Smith did call Mr. Samuelson about this.

Mr. Smith said that from his conversation with Mr. Samuelson yesterday, he thinks that Mr. Samuelson is feeling left out of discussions about the project.

Mrs. Walter stated that when the Selectmen discussed emergency repairs for the water infiltration and Mr. Samuelson said that he would install some expanding foam, she asked how long the foam would last, and was told approximately six months. That would be around June, so when the snow began to melt she went into the great hall and

there was no evidence of leaking. Mr. Samuelson did a great job with the foam. She is very satisfied that there has been no further damage.

Mrs. Walter stated that she did not want the conversation about the reinstallation of the tower to get mixed up with the conversation about spending the \$120,000.00. The question is whether or not Mr. Samuelson can accommodate a June 21st installation instead of May 17th.

The second discussion for the Selectmen is about the \$120,000.00 that was appropriated by town meeting to address water infiltration issues with the roof and the gutters. This project has been on the Capital Planning Committee's list since 2007. We have not had a second opinion on the severity of the problem. Mr. Smith agreed that a second opinion could prove helpful.

Mrs. Walter noted that the question is how can we spend this money without going out to bid. Ideally the water infiltration project would begin when the tower is re-installed and the insurance company is out of the picture.

Mr. Smith explained to Mr. Miner that when he first got on the Board of Selectmen he went to Spencer to receive the CDBG grant and spoke with Congressman McGovern. The congressman is genuinely interested in the Town House project. He is key to getting federal funds for this building. Mr. Samuelson needs to understand how important it is that Congressman McGovern be present for the tower reinstallation.

Mr. Miner left the meeting and Jeff Samuelson joined the meeting.

Mrs. Walter informed Mr. Samuelson that the Selectmen have been discussing the two issues, the tower reinstallation and the water infiltration project. She noted that Mr. Samuelson's suggestion of a May 17th date for the tower installation was discussed, along with the fact that Congressman McGovern really wants to be involved and present for the reinstallation. The congressman has been working behind the scenes for the entire tax credit process.

Mr. Samuelson stated that he understood, and that he also would really like Congressman McGovern there, but he is a one-man business. He agrees that this would be great exposure for the town and for the project.

Mrs. Walter said that the congressman can be here on June 21st. Mr. Smith asked Mr. Samuelson to think about this date, and explained again how important Mr. McGovern is to the successful completion of this project. He is in a position to access funds that can help. Mr. Samuelson stated that he would do his best to accommodate this date; his first call will have to be to the insurance company; someone else will have to be in charge of the logistics of the reinstallation, such as police details, etc. Mr. Smith stated that the Friends of the Town House would coordinate this.

Mr. Samuelson questioned why Mrs. Walter called Rob Johnson, the structural engineer. He wanted to know why he was not informed of Mr. Johnson's visit. Mrs. Walter said that it did not occur to her, she was at the town hall dealing with another problem. She apologized to Mr. Samuelson.

Mr. Samuelson said that Mr. Johnson sent him an e-mail asking for additional structural work to be done in the tower. Mr. Samuelson said that he believes that this additional work will cost approximately \$1,200.00 to \$2,000.00. It suggested that Mr. Samuelson speak with insurance adjuster Tom Donaldson about this additional cost.

Mr. Smith told Mr. Samuelson that no one is casting aspersions on Mr. Samuelson's talent and dedication to the building. In Mr. Smith's mind Mr. Samuelson is not done with the building.

Mr. Samuelson stated that perhaps the bell itself could be installed for Memorial Day.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:30 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie Scott Burton
Administrative Assistant