

# Five Main Street Committee

Meeting #1

Town Hall

January 21, 2015

Attendance: see list 13 men 7 women

Mike Millenase opened the meeting at 7pm. He said that a request for a representative to attend was sent to all committees, but he was not sure if all had received it. The invitation was not a formal one. Introductions were made around the room, noting that Gary Burdick would be late as he was finishing a Prayer Meeting. There was no written agenda nor clarity as to the status on the committee of the current attendees. Therefore, the conversation mostly tried to clarify what was actually happening with the building since its purchase. Mike has the only key and feels the building is solid. The Town is paying to heat and insure it. Chief Hastings has made a request to use the building during the interim. No formal inspection or report has been done yet outside of what was required for purchase.

Questions: Condition of the building? Current costs? Who else might want usage? Timeline for making decisions to present to the Town at Town Meeting: Keep for Town use; sell it, retaining enough property to support the Old Town Hall usage; tear it down. Committee members, and Chair?

A discussion of chairperson ensued with someone stating that Gary was definitely interested. Several people tried to convince Joanne Higgins to do it but she was very hesitant. At that point Gary arrived and it was unanimously decided that they could be co-chairs to which Joanne agreed. Gary was clear that a schedule for meetings would be inviolate outside of a dire emergency, like a blizzard!

The discussion of the condition of the house continued and it was felt that the house is sound with modern windows, working heating system and an Artesian well. The deficiencies of the Old Town Hall (#3 Main St.) were also raised: No land for parking; No land for a large enough septic system for public use; No elevator. Nancy Baer had a 1975 survey had #5's build date between 1828-43 and that there were 7 acres and 160 feet of road frontage. Leon Givner copied some data on the two properties from the Assessors Office.

After much discussion, it was decided that anyone who wished to inspect the premises of #5 would meet there Saturday January 24. Gary also stated that the Committee would consist of all present and any Committee reps who wanted to be included but had not heard about this meeting. Gary stated that meetings would be scheduled and posted. The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, January 27 at the Wales Library. Some of the issues needing review are: Selectmen approving Change of Use with Planning Board input and any other interim usage (Planning Board meets every two weeks); Decisions about the structure of the #5 Committee need to be clarified: Number of votes needed to move forward, etc. It was suggested to use Leis Phinney or seek legal counsel, if necessary.

A Secretary volunteer was sought: Cheri Fisher pleaded out due to prior commitments and the task went to Carolyn Boehne who didn't know how to get out of it.

Moved to adjourn at 8pm

