



Town of Montgomery - P.O. Box 356
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UNAPPROVED MINUTES
Montgomery Town Hall Committee

Monday, Feb 12 2024

6:00 pm

Town Hall (57 Main St.)

Members Present: Tosca Smith, Joanne Dennis, Brad Elliot, Shane Mercy, Tiffany Salyards
Abe Barnard Visitors: Nicole Woodworth

1. Brad brought the meeting to order at 6:05 pm
2. Approve Minutes 1/8/2024. No discussion. Tosca made a motion to approve minutes of 1/8/2024 as written. Tiffany seconded. All in favor. Motion carries.
3. Charter for Town Hall. Went over minor changes requested by selectboard. Tiffany asked for clarification on filling vacant seats. TH Committee would send recommendations to Selectboard to approve. Tosca made a motion to approve the charter as amended. Abe seconded. All in favor. Motion carries.
4. Discussion of plumbing inspectors report. Not too much needs to be done to upgrade the kitchen aside from a hand sink and open drains. Signage needed for bathrooms. Abe and Brad will work on getting estimates for work so we have an idea of funds needed to raise. Fire marshall for our area was not available due to being on leave. A substitute came and walked through the building but because he was not our marshall nothing he said could be 100 % verified. He suggued we wait until our marshall was back to work. Tosca will reach out again in a week or two to see if we can reschedule. Tiffany and Tosca will be point people for kitchen equipment needed. Abe and Brad will be point people for any contracted services needed. This will remain on agenda under old business.
5. Budget meeting. Tosca and Tara went to the budget meeting to discuss our plans for funds needed for the Hall. The Budget Committee will be moving TH into its own reserve fund. Budget for the year will be 15,000. All additional funds needed will fall to the TH Committee to raise through rental and fundraising efforts.
6. Historical Designation. Joanne brought a lot of information to share with the group. Joanne spoke to Colin at the Dept of Historic Preservation. The property has been deemed eligible for designation based on its significance to the local community. Having the designation allows for grant funding. There really is no downside to being on the register with the exception of time and money. It is a lengthy process. Joanne will get in touch with The Montgomery Historical Society to see if they have any interest in helping us pursue this goal. There is also help available through a program at UVM. Joanne also brought information about The Village Trust Initiative that is administered by The Preservation Trust of Vt. Joanne will follow up on efforts to get more info. Tosca will reach out to a contact on the Preservation Trust Board. This will remain on the agenda under old business.
7. Brad made a motion to switch agenda order to recognize visitors and discuss fundraising before scheduling. Abe seconded. All in favor. motion carries. Nicole Woodworth is interested in carrying on the tradition of The Peoples Prom, changing the name , but keeping the tradition of an

annual prom for adults. Details of who would sponsor, how proceeds would be distributed, and date were discussed. Brad agreed that his non profit Montgomery Smiles would sponsor the event, agreeing to carry insurance necessary to cover liability and alcohol consumption. As this is separate from the TH Committee, no motion was needed to agree to this. This event has been added to the calendar for the last Saturday in May(the 25th). The fee charged for this will be decided at the next meeting when we formalize the new fee structure.

The following suggestions were made for other fundraising ideas, community dinners, bingo, variety show, art shows, classes, workshops , fall/winter farmers craft markets. We also discussed having a food pantry and clothing shelf in the basement to meet the needs of our community. Tiffany will reach out to Lois Lumbra, who currently runs the food pantry at the Methodist church, to see if this would be something we could take on or add to.

All of these things are doable and will add to the use of the building year round. We will continue to keep this on our agenda under old business.

8. Scheduling and fees. It was agreed that Tara and Joanne will manage the schedule using the google calendar. Tara has already been involved with this process for years, as she is the main caretaker of the building. She also has a very good idea of how much time and effort keeping this building clean takes. Joanne created an email that people can use to contact them for booking. It is scheduletownhall@gmail.com. Joanne and Tara are going to work on the details of how things will work as far as reserving, paying, cleanup etc. We are going to revisit this at the next meeting .

The fee schedule was also discussed at length. We have agreed to re-write what currently exists to make things simpler or at least easier to distinguish between small events, free events, fundraising events. We also discussed policy on alcohol use in the building. We agreed in principle that Town sponsored events should require a liquor license, important to give business equally to all the licensed providers in town. Private events or those sponsored by non profits would require proof of insurance to cover liquor liability.

Discussion about use of the building for fundraisers that raise money for organizations other than the Town Hall and whether they should be paying a percentage or larger fee for use of the building. Currently when the building is rented for a large event, the renter pays for the day of the event, not the day before or after. The majority of this committee thinks that is not enough, when they are setting up the night before and cleaning the day after the electricity is still on, the water and the heat is being used. We are going to change the fees to reflect this as well. Tosca volunteered to write a draft fee arrangement for the next meeting.

We have an event scheduled this March 8-10 which needs the fee arrangement for that particular event finalized. Tosca made a motion to charge 100.00 per day of use for this event reserved by John Chamberlain. That would be 300.00. Abe seconded. All in favor. Motion Carries.

Shane moved to adjourn meeting at 8:11. Tiffany seconded. All in favor. Meeting Adjourned.