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June 1 2009

Town Hall Committee Meeting
April 15, 2009

Present: Barbara Felitti, Aaron Worthley, Jen Lavoie, Jeff Krull, Jim Christianson, Alison Forrest

1. Decided that our notes should be posted on town website for community to read AFTER going around via email to committee for approval.

2. Follow-up Meetings-

- Talk to K. Wiberg (AF will send BF his email).

- Talk to Devon Coleman, AW has left 4 messages so far and will continue to try to reach him. At time of this posting, this has been accomplished.

-Meet with Melissa Hoffman- AW is working on this, scheduling problems have prevented thus far.

- Septic update- AF will contact Dean Grover

-Building uses by other town groups- AF will generate a list--see below

3. Huntington Revolving Loan Fund-How much is available? How is it applied for? BF will contact Ed Booth, Sue Minter?

4. Concept Plans- layout of Building. JK will generate, though site is important for this.

5. Moving Building was discussed again, in light of non-support from Historic Preservation lobby. It still appears to this committee that the building cannot be fully utilized for its historic purposes in its current location. In light of new ADA laws, fire codes, and increased traffic on the main road (safety of pedestrian traffic at night, in Winter), we feel that use of building would be severely restricted if left in place, although it would be historically accurate, perhaps as a museum? It is interesting that historically, buildings WERE moved when sites became impractical, we are researching local examples. We agree that the inside of the Town Hall, i.e. its functionality, is as important, (aesthetically more so?), than the outside, and so the dance floor , stage and wings should be left intact. This means that in order to accommodate a 3-story lift and new staircase, a full addition would have to be added.

Because there is no vehicular access to rear of building, this needs to go on the front, a possibility only if the building is moved all the way back on its lot. If the building is to be used for any type of 'senior' center, it would be also be important to have at least 4 ADA parking spaces in front.

Town Groups that would use a renovated Town Hall:

- HERO- exercise classes, meals, health clinics, meetings
- HVA - music (concerts, practice space, classes), Art shows, classes, fundraisers, theatrical presentations, dances
- Boy Scouts/ Girl Scouts- Meetings, community service projects, classes, fundraisers, childcare during town meetings
- BPMS - summer food service program, theatrical productions, fundraisers, meetings
- Private Citizens- Martial Arts classes, dance classes, dances, weddings, parties, slide shows, movie nights, food preservation
- Town of Huntington and committees - Meetings at least 2X / week.
- Energy Committee- example of "green" , energy efficient, perhaps energy producing town building

Respectfully submitted- Alison F.