

Hooper Board Meeting Minutes

March 5, 2024

Meeting called to order 5:34 p.m.

Present: Helen Dalbeck, Sue Nadeau, Peggy Schirrer., Steve Dalessio, Seth Andrews, Nicole Adams, Annette Beers, Will Grossman and Andrew Dey.

Building update – welcome Andrew Dey, shared other projects he’s currently working on locally both in NH and across the river in VT. He reviewed Hooper building goals – year round building use, make efficient, update systems – heat, electric, kitchen and bathroom upgrades, layout design improvements and accessibility. Expresses his expertise is in project management and not architectural design. He expressed the importance of an energy audit. Grant funding is available (had accomplished this for the Walpole Town Hall and the North Walpole Fire Station/Library).

Energy Auditor - Margaret Dillon – recommended, \$2500 proposed which is 75% of the cost – audit report should be available by May.

Shared that the ADA has a checklist to follow for learning what the needs are. Likely to bring in an architect for this piece. Will inquired about how the requirements for access will be outlined. He shared some ideas on uses of the space i.e. workshops, learning and meetings. Steve shared knowledge of what VT requires for accessibility with regards to multiple level access. Helen expressed her own concern about an employee having accessibility for her own work day use – if in the event her mobility changed.

Peggy will be writing to the office of Charitable Trust to present a budget. Reminded us that there is a healthy maintenance budget, but cautioning that we plan before spending.

Seth reminded the Board that with regard to strategic planning for the future that the building seems to be the priority. The Board should discuss further.

Andrew offered he feels the Energy Audit is a good place to start as is his expertise. Perhaps we all check in after it’s completed. Nicole suggested that summer may lend itself as good timing to resume strategic planning.

Seth presented the idea that the workshop space could allow itself for meeting/function space in the short term Helen suggests that the woodworking camp generates a lot of dust.

Peggy suggests that planning use of the space in “stages” and prioritizing is a good strategy. There is \$200k-\$250K available up front.

Nicole inquired about what the shed houses at the Hooper. Seth suggested it could be upgraded and serve as a woodworking shop space. Will asked Andrew what the parking could look like.

Peggy reminded that group that there was an idea presented to relocate the driveway at some point. Will asked Andrew about his thoughts on what his expertise and opinion is about the Hooper building.

He shared historic preservation and maintaining character are important. The topic of window enhancement or replacement was raised. Costs would have to be considered.

Helen proposed that the Board make a “wish list”. Seth raised the idea that another bath/kitchen could be placed where the old boiler exists. Will asked Andrew if he was aware of whether there would be requirements such as a school for access/safety. Good question. Ongoing conversations were about Helen’s safety while working alone and upstairs in the building.

Board Update – Sue reminded the Board of her goal to invite other members to step up to “facilitate” Board meetings – to give all the opportunity to run a meeting while the Chair position is vacant. Sue stated she would continue to prepare that agendas and attach the meeting notes. Annette volunteered to facilitate the April meeting.

Reports –

Secretary’s Report was read by Annette. Will raised one correction to add his wife’s name “Wendy” to be amended. Helen raised spelling of Andrew Dey’s last name. Will motioned to approve seconded by Seth, all approved.

Treasurer’s Report – Maint. \$179,733.23 income beginning balance, expenses \$400.80 to date ending balance as \$183,341.05.

\$95,871.03 beginning scholarship bal. income \$9,051.47, \$824.50 income fees, expended 103,638.10, ending balance of \$459.90 income balance.

WSB local checking balance of \$22,139.79, Seth motioned, Nicole seconded, all approved.

Director’s Report – highlighted there will be an Owl Presentation to culminate the primary school’s learning block, the elementary grades will focus on raptors with a presentation culminating a VINS presentation in North Walpole. All to be paid for by the Outdoor Education Fund through the NH Charitable Foundation. Seth inquired and Helen confirmed she would be maintaining this format once the Educators are hired. Helen needs help with all 3 school garden raised beds – repairs. Volunteers needed on April 6th at 10 a.m.

Helen shared a concern about the diminishing number of host sites for summer interns. The Board shared ideas such as Sue suggested considering taking a year reprieve for this program. There needs to be more discussion to support a solution. Helen will attend the Town Meeting.

The Educator position has been divided into two positions to serve each group of grades as: 12 and 14 hour positions. Will expressed the importance of the job description outlining details such as autonomy in the classroom. Helen will post to Indeed, NH Environmental Ed, peers and welcomes suggestions. Seth suggests Antioch’s job board as a good source to post the positions.

Sue reminded that the intent of 2 Educators would be to assist in the absence of the other at times.

No FoHi report – per Helen

Conservation Committee – Nicole shared that Will and Wendy Grossman presented on the Rail Trail project at the recent meeting. May 4th is set for the next volunteer Trail Work Day. Details to follow.

Nicole motioned and Annette seconded to approve the amended Hooper Bylaws regarding Scholarship Committee representation. All in favor.

Seth motioned, Annette seconded to appoint Will Grossman as the Scholarship member on the Hooper Board. All in favor.

OLD BUSINESS

Annette motioned, Will seconded that Sue remain as Vice Chair and liason for the Community Garden. All in favor.

There was a short discussion about the terms of all members to be considered. Discussion about Sue's idea to have one or two alternates might lend itself to supporting the note taking and meeting a quorum for voting.

There was a short discussion about terms of the Board members.

Helen reminded that she will send the Board her daughter Chloe's resume , and with the summer camp job description.

The meeting adjourned at 7:21 p.m.

The next Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 3rd at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Sue Nadeau