

## Hooper Board Meeting Minutes

May 1, 2024

In attendance: Helen Dalbeck, Sue Nadeau, Annette Beers, Peggy Schirrer (by phone), Will Grossman, Amy Owens and Seth Andrews

Annette Beers called the Hooper Board meeting to order at 5:42 p.m.

### Board Update:

Emma Kobeski resigned as Secretary. Annette offered to facilitate the June meeting agenda.

\*Helen reminded all of the importance of recruiting to the goal of 9 Board members. Ideas were shared including asking teachers, students and Community Garden members to join.

### Presentation of Reports

- Secretary's Report – Annette – Sue shared Emma's decision to resign as Secretary. Seth raised and Sue agreed it might be a good idea to entertain a paid position. Helen will look into this with the town as well as the Library about this structure. Sue also suggested perhaps finding a secretary and an alternate. Meantime will be to appoint members of the Board to fulfill this role. The first half of the meeting minutes were absent at this meeting. Annette volunteered to read the minutes from the 6:15 hour until adjournment from the April meeting. There was one correction  
Sue motioned, Sue seconded to accept the minutes as read.
- Treasurer's Report & Trust Update – Annette
- Local account balance is \$22,140.89 checking, Local ROI March expenses \$7,305.38, interest earned \$96.57 with bal of \$67,312.36. Hooper Maintenance beginning bal. \$184,967.94, income \$4,464.95, income fees \$91.95. Income expended \$1,346.91 with ending bal. \$187,994.03. Education/Scholarship \$0 beg. Bal, income \$9,199.27 = income bal. \$8364.48.  
**Loans** to Hooper by the town was brought to both Amy Owens and Annette Beers attention. Payback of \$24k on 12/2021, \$30k 8/2022 to be discussed time/term/amts. tbd  
Helen stated that we request that the Selectboard be called upon to formally share this information with Board members. All agreed this will be a goal at the June meeting.  
Amy motioned, Seth seconded the report be approved.
- Director's Report – Helen read the report as submitted to all prior to the meeting, copies were distributed.
- Helen also shared that she met in person with Rob Westover regarding his request to build mountain bike trails in the Hooper forest. There was a lot of discussion about his intentions and what Hooper envisions. More discussion is needed. Helen concluded her opinion that the Hooper forest remain and be allowed to recover as a first step. Will shared that the "landing area" that was staged for the timber cut is overseen by the Monadnock Conservancy. They typically don't allow bike trails to be built unless the

entity is an organization. Seth offered the idea that Helen's response to Rob Westover with her decision be in writing. The Board offered to all sign the letter. Will suggested the Board get Trustee approval as well.

- FoHi Report – Dahlia Sale is May 18 at the Walpole School on Bemis Lane, 10-1
- Conservation Committee Report – no report this month
- Hooper Scholarship Report – Will shared he's been attempting to learn when they'll have a meeting in May.
- Old Business
  1. Strategic Planning – no updates , tabled until June
  2. Hiring – Helen has one candidate who applied previously who is being aligned for an interview for the primary grades. Positions re-listed online.
  3. Building Upgrades - Peggy reported on the meeting with Steve and Andrew met on April 30<sup>th</sup>. Discussed the wood workshop be made into a multipurpose room with a kitchen, talked about a handicap "lift" be installed to aid visitors getting to the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor. Proposes the Board share ideas for the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, add an office and remove old equipment from the building and sold or scrapped, add air filtration system, entry level proposal to install an ADA accessible bathroom. Helen asked a question about utilities in the basement level or underneath space which has a lot of water seeping inside and whether it will be on the list. She also asked that we check with E.E. Houghton about whether a heat pump system feeding mini-splits will be compatible with the air filtration system in the woodworking shop. Idea of rolling tables could be considered for the woodshop to use sanders outdoors. Will asked whether the 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> floor could be utilized for presentation. Peggy replied it would depend on the topic.
- The architect is Chris Adams from Dorset, VT but grew up in Walpole and attended the Hooper programs. Sue asked about widening the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor entry from the stairwell. Helen suggested storage and workstations. Peggy asked about whether the museum items should be reconsidered. Helen commented some of the items are historic and others could be reconsidered. Visits of previous years with school visits did generate some income.
- Peggy will bring drawings to the next meeting and work up a budget for this project.

Maint & Projects updates – shared in the Director's report, new shed door to be installed now that the clean out has been completed.

High School Program – Helen has some students who have

Friends of Hooper Institute - Amy expressed that the FoHi be discussed. How can we best help the entity? Should we double our efforts as the Board and FoHi? Seth questioned what happens by the June annual deadline if paperwork to report on FoHi to the state isn't completed.

### New Business

No new business this month

The next meeting will be June 5<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 at the Hooper Institute

Meeting adjourned at 7:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Nadeau