

## 3/7/2024 Minutes from Addison Town Hall Building Committee

Present: John Spencer, Levi Barret, Cheri Waterman, Chris Stackhouse, Michael Hollis, Star Phillips. The meeting was opened at 3:06, the 2/29/24 minutes were approved, 4 yes, 0 no, 1 absent.

Levi asked to see the 1st-floor plans that Laz had shared, which Levi had not received. He wanted to get clarity on the details of that plan, prior to the Preliminary 106 review. The plan we had showed indications of where the north window bank is, even though the wall was shaded, indicating no windows. His recommendation was to avoid confusion, the revised plan should eliminate evidence of those six windows, as they are to be removed in our preferred option #1. John remembered Laz was planning on other minor revisions as well.

Cheri shared she had recently become more torn on the elimination of the north bank of windows, as lately she'd had several conversations with folks, some of whom loved the "old windows".

Chris explained his feeling that just as the TH original fenestration had been drastically altered for significant change of use, it seemed appropriate the current change of use, back to the Town Hall, allow a return to the original fenestration.

Levi agreed and would therefore propose one window be added where Laz had shown none on the north wall. John disagreed strongly, feeling a fake window was ridiculous. Chris remembered a recent letter from Luara Trieschman (State Historic Preservation Officer), who said such a window could be covered from the interior, or on the exterior with shutters. Levi then read aloud a letter he'd written to express his reactions to his thorough study of the Addison Town Hall's National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, signed by Luara Trieschman. He found no section of the form described the school windows as a significant historic feature. Rather it was "an excellent example of a vernacular Italianate style town hall. It's brackets, belfry, design and location are listed as marks of importance."

Levi next made a motion, seconded by Chris, for the committee to request Laz be prepared to present three options.

Option 1. Our first choice, with the vault on the north, and the original 4 over 4 fenestration. Chris will provide a narrative describing the reasons behind this choice.

Option 2. Our second choice, with vault on north but 4 over 3 fenestration.

Option 3. Our third choice, with the vault on the south side. The north bank of six windows would remain and the two westerly windows, currently removed, would be restored.

The motion was carried, 4 yes, 0 no, 1 absent.

Levi next made a motion, seconded by John, that Chris be the committee's representative to best communicate the reasons behind these choices. He would hopefully be present for the 106 review meeting. The motion was carried, 3 yes, 1 abstention, 1 absent.

Under other business, Chris raised the issue of the undefined scope of allowable demo of less historic materials. John recommended Chris write a proposed list for Laz and the State to review.

Chris also remembered Maddie Shropshire from Addison County Regional Planning requested a list of “energy related “items in the TH that could be supported by various grants. Chris remembered Laz making a note for this, and wondered if he has or wishes to create said list. If not, Chris could try as well.

Chris raised the question about finding leadership for the “Friends of Addison” (5013c nonprofit). John suggested the upcoming town website be a great opportunity. John felt we have a good group of ready volunteers, but we need a leader. Cheri agreed that is key to ongoing success. Michael Hollis said he is considering the role.

Cheri described the various features of the website that could assist with all sorts of volunteer recruitment for town activities.

We requested Cheri put Town Hall on the agenda, for the next Selectboard meeting, (3/12), so we could get the contract signed for Laz’s work.

We also hoped the SB could let us turn the heat up in one room for more comfortable meetings.

Levi had noticed there was no wifi in our room. Cheri will contact the provider, and hopefully get support with a router, etc. John said the current Town Office building should be eligible for the same free service.

Levi requested further research on the Town Hall Reserve Fund be done by Cheri, to clarify any restrictions on its use.

A motion to adjourn was made by John at 4:15, seconded by Levi, was carried, 4 yes, 0 no, and 1 absent.

Chris Stackhouse - Clerk