5/22/24 Minutes from Addison Town Hall Building Committee

Present: John Spencer, Bob Schatz, Levi Barrett, Cheri Waterman, Chris Stackhouse, and Steve Torrey.

John opened the meeting at 1:12, No changes to the agenda. No Public comment. The minutes from 5/16/24 had one correction from Levi. The second paragraph should delete "Northern Boarders" and insert "Village Trust Initiative".

John welcomed the one Selectboard member Steve Torrey. Unfortunately, Laz had to cancel his meeting with us due to urgent last-minute needs elsewhere.

Bob spoke about his progress with the State Project Priority List application. He had been seeking clarity on how many jobs would be created from the project. Bob is also working on the ADA Accessibility grant and found wording requiring we print a Public Meeting Notice in the paper. Bob will contact the Addi Indi and pick a date.

Levi reported on his Zoom meeting with Nicloe Graton from the Preservation Trust of Vermont, regarding the Village Trust Initiative. He was asked to explain the project in detail, already submitted in writing. In the end, she did not feel our project was a good fit for their program, as it was nearing the finish line. They prefer to help towns who are struggling more with how to get started and have a long way to go. She felt it would be a mistake to get involved with their two-to-three-year process. Levi said the intake form is in, we might be selected, we don't know.

John reported on the Tax Credit program, having spoken with Catlin Corkins. We would need our 5013c to qualify and administer the process of selling the credit to a business such as a local bank, at a slight discount. John will pursue the best wording for the required Memorandum of Understanding, that he thinks is available in Ferrisburgh.

Chris had no news on the Town Hall hazardous materials survey, or the need for an Environmental Survey.

Cheri had informed the committee she'd received a petition with 200 signatures, involving the Town Hall and Addison Community Center, which would require a townwide vote. It reads:

"Shall general obligation bonds or notes of the town of Addison in the amount not to exceed $400,000 be issued to finance the cost of making improvements and moving the town offices to the former Addison School, instead of renovating the Town Hall for use as town offices ?

Shall the voters authorize the Selectboard to use the existing Town Hall Fund to make repairs and renovations to the Town Hall to ensure the structure is preserved for future uses? “

Several members of the THBC questioned the legality of such a two-part question, as well as it somehow superseding Town Hall Bond vote already passed. Cheri said there will be a 47 period before any vote could be held, and a public informational meeting would be held first. She felt it most likely to be an August vote with the primaries. Cheri also felt it would be very inappropriate to combine the Clerk’s Office with an open to the public use such as a Day Care setting. It would seem to facilitate the intrusion of “First Amendment Rights” disruptions.

It seemed relevant the Selectboard has just opened the ACC for limited use, is gradually establishing polices for such use, but has held no public meetings to solicit public feedback. They have also just asked for volunteers to re-form a Facility study Comm. Chris pointed out no architectural study has ever been done to get a code approved design, from which real estimate would be derived. Many other questions and issues were discussed, and the committee looks forward to further conversations at the next Selectboard meeting, June 3rd.

Chris reported ACRPC has still not received results from the MERP Audits done to several buildings. They have asked Chris to work with them on creating a job description for a paid consultant to help in writing detailed scopes of work to implement funding and supervise that energy efficiency work.

A motion to adjourn was made by John, second by Cheri, 5 yes, 0 no.

Chris Stackhouse - Clerk