1/8/2025 – Addison Town Hall Building Comm. Minutes

Present: John Spencer, Levi Barrett, Bob Schatz, Michael Hollis, and Chris Stackhouse

John opened the meeting at 1:30 pm to begin a scheduled Zoom meeting with Jenna Lapchinski from the Preservation Trust of Vt. The committee updated her with developments since the vote to rescind the TH bond. She was informed about: The hoped for USDA grant to study the ACC, TH, and Town Office building. The $127,000. Currently in the Town Hall Reserve Fund. The potential double wide being estimated by Town and Country for town offices. The list of estimates for stabilization tasks that Chris is working on, to prepare for Spring work.

Jenna agreed stabilization was priority one, after which the building would be "mothballed" until a use and funding would allow next steps. She strongly encouraged us to get community-wide support for what the building's best use should be. She offered to contact the Vermont Council of Rural Development, who can facilitate such a public conversation. They would potentially provide skilled leadership, a pizza dinner, and childcare. We agreed she should inquire on our behalf.

She also discussed the options the Town could consider in the sale or lease of the property. Levi raised the zoning challenges in subdividing the lot. Michael felt a 501c3 should wait for the use to be chosen before its formation. Jenna felt it could be formed with a community wide mission, and then focus on specific TH grants once a use is chosen. Jenna also recommended clear descriptions of responsibilities be defined for the Town and the 501c3.

Chris mentioned Laz Scangus had recently told him if the TH was not fully renovated, the foundation would need to have a stone shelf and stone veneer, to adequately preserve its historic character. Jenna felt it was not so black and white.

Regarding the minutes from the last meeting, Levi asked to change the two mentions of the "DRB" to the "Planning Commission". With that correction Levi moved to approve the minutes, Bod gave a second. They were approved, 5 yes. 0 no.

The next Meeting will be held on Friday, Jan. 17, at 6:30, in the ACC.

The Meeting was adjourned at 2:12 pm.

Chris Stackhouse - Clerk