

The Wintonbury Historical Society, Inc.
Building Committee
Minutes of the Meeting held on April 12, 2000

The meeting, held at Bloomfield Town Hall, was called to order by Ed Stanley, Vice-President of the Wintonbury Historical Society, Inc. & Chairman of the Committee at 7:21 p.m. with eleven members (Ed Stanley, Fannie Gabriel, Roberta Kania, Eileen Phelps, Marc & Judi Sitkin, Sharon Steinberg, Bob Stiles, Winnie Granger, Don Moore, Janis Langston) present. One more member of the Committee (Bruce Hale, Sr.) and Eloise Marinos, Architect joined the meeting later in the evening.

The Chairman stated he and Eloise Marinos had met with Bill Bailey and Cliff Gurham earlier in the day regarding the Filley House property. Part of the information that came out of this meeting was that the Town will only match \$50,000 this year and next. The Town fiscal year runs from July 1st to June 30th.

Eloise Marinos read a resolution that was originally passed by the Town. It appears that this resolution is not "cast in stone" because it was amended by a memorandum from the Town Manager and the annual amount of the matching funds has been reduced from \$100,000 to \$50,000 for the two years from July 1st 1999 to June 30th 2000 and July 1st 2000 to June 30th 2001. She stated that it was clear from the meeting that the Town does not care how much has been spent of the money, but rather what funds we have raised and are available to match the Town moneys. The good news is that the \$500,000 that was made available does not have a five year use it or lose it time frame attached to it. We need to be very proactive with the Town and we need to keep in touch with them to keep them apprised of our fund raising efforts so that the next budget will take into account the money that will be needed to match our fund raising efforts.

Eloise also stated that there is a line item of \$10,000 in the Town Budget for the South West District School restoration. We have used approximately \$3,000 of that money. The remainder might be able to be tied to a grant resolution. There is also a \$20,000 line item in the Town Budget this year only for site work (plumbing, parking, septic, water, etc.) at the Filley House. There is no date restriction on it, but it is one time only.

We need to think of the \$50,000 as a revolving fund that the Town will use to pay restoration bills. With each submission of an invoice to the town for payment we should send the matching money so that we can start developing a matching funds credibility with the Town.

Eloise Marinos read a statement in which:

"Mr. Chapman explained that the purpose of this grant is to allow the Town of Bloomfield to preserve its history through renovation and preservation buildings, primarily the Oliver Filley House and the Simsbury Road schoolhouse. The Wintonbury Historical Society would work in conjunction with the Town in the fund raising and restoration projects.

In reply to a question from Council, Mr. Chapman explained that the Town's funds would be put into each year's budget, and the funds would be presented to the Historical Society after they have raised funds."

Eloise Marinos, Architect, explained that any grant has strings attached and as long as there is \$1.00 of Town money being used, then we have to put the bids out through the Town. The HRF grant when it is received will go to the Town of Bloomfield not the Historical Society's account.

Judi Sitkin stated that we still need to fundraise \$8,000 by April 28th. The Town will advance the \$18,000 and will be paid back from the State grant. The Town will also be advancing \$8,000 that will have to be paid back by Wintonbury Historical Society fundraising.

Winnie Granger made a motion for the Building Committee to make a recommendation to the Board of Directors to consolidate both the Southwest District School and the Captain Oliver Filley House Funds into the "Challenge Grant Fund." Subaccounts will be maintained within the Challenge Grant bookkeeping structure to track separately the donation and expenditure of the Southwest District School and Filley House monies. The motion was seconded by Ed Stanley and passed unanimously.

Eloise Marinos presented the Revised Schedule for the Captain Oliver Filley House (copy attached) as discussed at the last meeting. She also discussed criteria & parameters for obtaining bids for work at the Captain Oliver Filley House. Because the woodwork removals have been delayed, the plaster removals will not happen until after The Filley Fest. The Town will want to see the matching monies in our account before they will authorize work to begin. By June 30th, the Historical Society will have to have \$60,000 to 75,000 in our Challenge Fund Account or we will be hard pressed to make arrangements for work at the House to begin.

Eloise Marinos asked for a motion to proceed with preparation of a grading plan and stated that the Hesketh grading plan has been discounted by 25% and will cost a maximum of \$1,000.

A motion was made by Eileen Phelps to authorize Eloise Marinos, Architect to engage Hesketh & Associates to map the topography around the pump house and parking area. Eloise Marinos will arrange to get the site work for the water connection done by the Town. The motion was seconded by Ed Stanley and passed by the Committee.

A meeting will be held with Tom Hooper (Director of Planning) and arrangements made that Cliff Gurnham (Facilities Manager) will get estimates for the site work around the pump house. Eloise Marinos also requested that a subcommittee be formed that will be responsible for the direction of the work on the pump house over the next 3 months. It was agreed that the Building Committee would work this out and Ed Stanley would notify her who would be in charge of this subcommittee.

Eloise Marinos announced that she had been able to get an in-kind donation from JJ Morris of the metal deck needed for the temporary roof at the Southwest District School.

[E. Marinos left at 8:47 p.m. to attend another meeting.]

The Building Committee discussed whether the wood removals should be postponed until after Filley Fest, since the plaster removals would not be done until after Filley Fest. It was decided that the house would look better with the wood and plaster still in place.

Minutes of the Wintonbury Historical Society Building Committee Meeting
held on April 12, 2000

Sharon Steinberg volunteered to chair the subcommittee responsible for the restoration of the pump house. Judi Sitkin agreed to be the contact person for the subcommittee overseeing the Southwest District School.

Signs publicizing the work being done at both sites were discussed and Marc Sitkin will have them made.

The need to make at least the first floor of the house handicap accessible for Filley Fest on June 24th was discussed. Janis Langston said that she has a ramp available that she would donate for the day if it was the correct size.

The issue of whether to have an apartment in the Filley house was discussed. It was decided that we should try to ascertain the Town's plans for the Farm Implement Museum and future plans for the property surrounding the Filley House.

A question was raised as to our legal obligations with regard to the Southwest District School. In the Town minutes, the intent is to enter into a 99 year lease with the Historical Society, but at present we do not have a lease with the Town. Don Moore suggested that in this case there is no real advantage to us to have a lease and that we should just continue overseeing the work being done there and not pursue a formal lease.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janis Langston