

Town Hall Committee Meeting Minutes - Draft
Wednesday February 21, 2018 – Calais Town Offices

Attendees: Denise Wheeler (Selectboard), John McCullough (Zoning Administrator), Jonathan Williams, Scott Bassage, Donna Fitch (Treasurer), David Schutz and Shana Trombly (by phone)

Denise Wheeler called the meeting to order at 8:00 A.M.

Public Comment: None.

Review of Town Hall Restoration Presentations: The Committee discussed the recent Town Hall Restoration presentations, and who attended. The committee discussed how to attract community members who might not necessarily be initially supportive of the project. The East Calais general store ‘tabling’, scheduled for Friday, February 23 was discussed. The committee discussed how to display the town hall model.

The committee reviewed the comments and feedback from the presentations. Solar energy and heat pumps were discussed. ‘The cost to expand the town office’ was considered. The town hall would have 900 square feet of open meeting space post renovations. Other questions re: expansion of the town offices were considered, including bathroom requirements and associated expenses. The committee considered rewording the estimated costs and projected income sheet. The issue of the road crew working on this project vs. working on infrastructure/roads projects was discussed. Denise Wheeler will speak to Toby Talbot re: the road crew’s work schedule. The committee discussed recognition and naming opportunities for potential donors, and any associated complications. The committee believes it should meet once more before town meeting (2/28) with Lisa Ryan. The committee discussed town meeting and the timing of the discussion re: the town hall. Members of the Selectboard, Donna, and John will frame the discussion at town meeting. Handouts and presentations at town meeting were discussed. David Schutz will support John McCullough with an ‘exhibit’ about the project’s three phases at town meeting. The committee discussed supplying coffee at town meeting. Jonathan will remind Denise to bring cake.

The committee discussed how to answer the question: ‘why can’t the town use the school (or another space) for meetings?’ The number/volume of meetings held in municipal spaces will be counted as a potential answer to this question. The ‘local approach’ will be emphasized. The committee noted the importance of emphasizing the creation of the Town Hall Renovation Committee, as well as the importance of noting the history of this project.

The committee discussed again the writing of letters to the editor to various newspapers media outlets. Shana Trombly will be out of town next week.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:56 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan Williams, Selectboard Administrator

Approved by the Town Hall Committee at the _____ Meeting