

Mimi

From: <Mhow2468@aol.com>
Date: Friday, August 02, 2013 12:37 PM
To: <tyrcc@bcn.net>
Cc: <sarphud@aol.com>; <cbgilder@gmail.com>; <jdemos@bcn.net>; <Cebarnhill@aol.com>; <charpentier4@gmail.com>
Subject: Hist. Commission August meeting minutes

Tyringham Historical Commission
Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, Aug. 1st, 2013

The Historical Commission met on Thursday, Aug. 1st, 2013 at 7 pm, at the School House. Present were: Clint Elliott, Nini Gilder, Peter Charpentier, Sarah Hudson and Maggie Howard. We were joined, at their request, by the following members of the Tyringham Housing Commission: Carey McIntosh, Bill Bean, Judy Morehouse and Vivi Mannuzza.

The purpose of this meeting was to discuss possibilities for restoring the School house and using it for a small affordable housing unit, while at the same time allowing the Historical Commission to remain housed there. Alternatively, if the Commission were to move elsewhere (i.e. to the present Highway Garage space), there might be room for two small housing units.)

Carey provided us with a brief history of this issue, which was first tabled some 5 years ago when Everett Fennelly did a brief assessment of the conditions of the building. There are numerous problems: deteriorating foundations and siding, probable existence of interior and exterior lead paint, asbestos, unacceptable location of the boiler room, etc. The Housing Commission wrote to several foundations with little result. Also, some townspeople were not in favor of putting affordable housing in the School House. Thus the discussions were abandoned. Now, however, the Housing Commission wishes to explore this again, in consultation with the Historical Commission. Among other issues, they made clear that since there is no one in town qualified to act as Manager of the building, this aspect would need to be handled by Construct in Great Barrington. The Town would continue to own the building.

One member of of the Historical Commission felt that the School House should continue as a location for town offices and for the Commission, and that a fund-raising campaign should be launched to cover the costs of basic restoration. Whatever the eventual decision, all present agreed that the historic character of the building must at all costs be preserved and therefore that the exterior and footprint should not be altered.

It was agreed that the Historical Commission should hold a special meeting and discuss this among themselves to come up with a consolidated opinion. This meeting will take place on Saturday, August 3rd, provided that John Demos and Alice Hale are available. Maggie and Nini will ascertain this.

Our next regular meeting will take place on Thursday, September 5th in the School House.

Respectfully submitted,
Maggie Howard, Clerk