

Town of Shaftsbury ARPA Committee

September 1, 2022

1. Call to Order

The meeting came to order in person at Cole Hall remotely via the platform Zoom at 2 p.m. Present were committee members Andrea Bacchi (chair), Tony Krulikowski, Naomi Miller, Betsy Habberfield, and Rick Bennett. Also present was town administrator David Kiernan and Select Board member Martha Cornwell.

2. Conflict of Interest Statement

No one reported a conflict of interest with any item on the agenda.

3. August 18, 2022 Meeting Minutes Approval

Ms. Bacchi asked about item 4 in the minutes. Ms. Miller moved that the mention of sharing the survey cards with the principal be deleted; instead the principal will reach out in any fashion comfortable with him. The motion was seconded and passed 5-0-0. Ms. Habberfield moved to approve the corrected minutes. Mr. Krulikowski seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.

4. Community Club Presentation/Comments

Mr. Rick Kobick, trustee, described the facility, the Shaftsbury Community Hall, and the groups in charge of running it.

He said the slate roof, especially the south side, is deteriorating. Mr. Kobick described the roof proposal for the south side: remove all slate on the south side, perform any necessary structural repairs, install roofing membranes and felt and flashings, install new slate on the south side, install new ridge cap, and save old slate for future use on the north side of the roof. Total cost estimate: \$25,000. If the roof isn't replaced, interior damage will continue.

In answer to a question, Mr. Kobick said that if funds were available it would make more sense to replace the entire roof now.

Mr. Kobick said that, traditionally, three community dinners are held there annually. Any group can rent the space. When asked about hours volunteered, Mr. Kobick noted the painting of the hall, frequent cleaning, installing a donated oil tank. Missing slates will be replaced in the near term; the roof itself would be fixed in summer 2023.

In response to a question, Mr. Kobick said in the absence of ARPA funding, a capital campaign would be initiated. He said he didn't know how long it would take to raise the funds. Mr. Kiernan asked Mr. Kobick to get an estimate for the whole roof from Doxie Roofing.

5. Historical Society Presentation/Comments

Mitch Race and Jim Cassidy presented their request. Mr. Race said none of the facades can be changed. He said that at the Galusha Homestead, over the years the well and pressure tank, the furnace, have been replaced. A security system and wifi have been installed. Roofs on outbuildings have been repaired.

Pre-pandemic, six or so events were held at the Galusha Homestead annually.

Last year, with help from Preservation Trust VT, an assessment of the homestead and church was conducted. The consultants concluded that structural repairs and restoration of the homestead would cost in the neighborhood of \$80-\$100K (in 2021), and at the church \$125K-\$150K (in 2021). Mr. Race presented tables breaking down the cost totals item by item.

Mr. Race described a request for ARPA funds that would serve as match for a grant due in October.

Mr. Race and Mr. Cassidy described unsuccessful efforts to repair the spire and steeple.

When asked what would happen if the Society didn't receive funds for restoration, he said they would probably sell the church and invest the funds in the homestead.

Ms. Miller asked, if the Town should contribute funds, could the two buildings be used for community events as well as historical events. Mr. Race said the issue would have to be brought to the board, but that events already serve a community purpose. He expressed concern over the safety of some items stored in the two buildings should they be opened more generally to the public. He described how open the Society is to visitation from, for example, those from away who are doing genealogical research. And keeping the buildings sound and attractive, he said, is a benefit for the community.

Mr. Race said the Society would like \$270,000 in ARPA funds, and in exchange would agree to raise on its own \$30,000. Mr. Kiernan said citizens have told him that they would oppose the donation unless the Society contributed a larger amount. Mr. Race said there is about \$270,000 in their trust. He said dividends from the trust cover the expenses.

He explained that keeping the museum open regularly would require staff, but staff would quickly exhaust their trust fund.

He said events are publicized with announcements in the Banner, on the website, on a sandwich board out front.

6. Committee Goals and Planning

Ms. Bacchi recapped progress on action items from last meeting:

- Boxes have been collected from around town and brought to Cole Hall.
- Thank you message and graphic were placed on website and shared on Front Porch Forum. Thank you includes invitations to upcoming ARPA committee meetings and Nov. 7 presentation to Select Board.
- Ms. Bacchi is working on the press release.
- Ms. Bacchi will reach out to elementary school principal.
- Ms. Miller asked all to respond by September 4 to spreadsheet of survey data. She will get her compilation out by Sept 23.

A discussion was held as to when and how the survey data might be shared. It was recommended that people be referred to the website for more information. Mr. Bennett will share some ideas for sharing at the next ARPA meeting.

It was agreed to next meet on Sept. 29 at 6 p.m. The public meeting will be held October 13.

7. Public Comments

There were none.

8. Other Business

9. Review of Action Items

See item 6 above. Additionally, Ms. Bacchi will ask the webmaster to change the dates shown on the website for the public meetings.

10. Adjournment

Ms. Habberfield moved to adjourn at 3:49 p.m. Ms. Miller seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.