

DRAFT ONLY

Minutes not accepted until sign off from each committee member present

**Whitcomb Hall Committee
09/28/2011 Meeting Minutes
Prepared by Hayley Hill, Secretary**

Present: Nancy Carlson (Project Lead), Francis Faulkner Jr., and Hayley Hill

Absent:

Lee Dunham, Judy Bohannon, Pete Johnson, Dave Krisch, Gail Wood

Weller & Michal Architects Inc.:

Tom Weller and Charles Michal visited Whitcomb Hall and took a quick tour to get an understanding of the building. They reported the building to be very sound with little modification from its original design.

A summary of initial observations and code update recommendations was provided and is attached to the minutes. A review of the summary led to brief discussion and consideration of such items as:

- Location of elevators- one option is to build on the outside of the building so that original interior stairways are not disturbed;
- What is the best option for entrance into the building? Options include maintaining original Main Street entrance and/or side/rear entrances
- Based on usage and occupancy, the required bathroom space would take up quite a bit of current interior space and may be best built in a separate adjoining space. The space could be designed in the spirit of the existing Hall design.
- Caution: while trying to meet goals to open first floor, don't overlook and/or sacrifice work that would need to be undone to complete second floor.
- Careful thought should be given to pros/cons of multiple paths for both short and long term goals with careful consideration of impacts presented if listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Next step: complete a comprehensive feasibility study. (A sample of the detailed report was provided.) Town approval would be needed to assign funds to this study.

Maggie Stier, NH Field Service Rep., National Trust for Historic Preservation:

Maggie provided insight to W&M assessment from a historic preservation perspective. Her expertise will be critical as the group continues to explore and document potential paths.

When applying for grant monies, the group must consider impacts; some grants will prohibit treatments that change the historic integrity of the building. Grants for preliminary structural and building assessments to address code and treatments to meet current standards are available through the Trust. Some cost estimating is included.

Maggie provided a copy of THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR'S STANDARDS FOR REHABILITATION which is attached to the minutes.

Miscellaneous:

Ken Sevene was in attendance and went on record with a donation for any replacement slate needed.

Next meeting:

October 28th, 4:00pm, Town Hall *Correction: Next meeting 10/26 (not 28th eaf)*