

DRAFT ONLY

Minutes not accepted until sign off from each committee member present

**Whitcomb Hall Committee
04/25/12 Meeting Minutes
Prepared by Hayley Hill, Secretary**

Present: Nancy Carlson (Project Lead), Gail Wood, Lee Dunham, Pete Johnson and Hayley Hill

Absent:

Judy Bohannon, Dave Krisch, Ken Sevene and Francis Faulkner Jr.

01/25/2012 meeting minutes were approved.

03/28/12 Meeting

Meeting was held but no minutes distributed. In attendance: N. Carlson, G. Wood, P. Johnson and K. Sevene. Agenda items were revisited during April meeting and are included in meeting minutes below.

Inventory of Property in Whitcomb Hall:

An inventory of items has been completed and an action plan is in place to clean out items being stored in the Hall. Items will be moved, sold or salvaged. Completion is expected by mid-May.

It was discussed that some of the antique items such as the commissioned “Whitcomb Hall” china, caned ladder back chairs, drop scenery, etc. should be moved into a safe storage area until firm plans can be made for their permanent home.

L. Dunham will make sure that the 3 X 10 custom made banquet tables will not be moved out. Documentation indicates that there are 7 of these tables housed in the Hall.

Renovated Historic Building Visits:

P. Johnson and G. Wood visited both the Walpole Town Hall and the Acworth Meeting. The Walpole Town Hall is very similar in construction to Whitcomb Hall and underwent major renovations 10 years ago. The Whitcomb Hall committee was specifically interested in gathering information on rest room facilities (sq ft, # of stalls, 1st flr, 2nd flr) as well as kitchen facility appliances and functionality. A visit to these two buildings suggests that a modest renovation to existing facilities is quite feasible without major addition of space and/or destruction of existing structure and design.

N. Carlson visited the Hinsdale Town Hall. Both the Town Hall and Community Center in Hinsdale have undergone recent renovations projects. Jill Collins is the Town Administrator and is available for further questions (336-5710 ext. 11). Peter Tenant was the architect for the projects. Sources for funding were:

CDGB Grant

ADA Compliance
HHCS Sr. Housing Meals Program
Southwest Services- Fuel Assistance
School- After school program

Plan NH:

Sara Carbonneau provided an overview to the committee.

Plan NH is made up of a group of professionals (engineers, architects, surveyors, attorneys, etc.) who volunteer their time and expertise working with communities to help create and carry out a vision. They spend time in the community meeting with key stakeholders and residents, understanding the big picture and feeling out how a renovation to Whitcomb Hall might fit in with community plans. Parking, lighting, water, sewer, housing developments, other town meeting places, importance of historic character, etc. are just some of the elements considered in the bigger plan.

For more specific information, go to plannh.org and click on Charrettes:

“Plan NH believes that the quality of life for NH residents is represented by the strength and vitality of a triple bottom line: Economic, Social and Environmental well being. We are champions of Smart Growth in New Hampshire. And as such, our membership and volunteers represent professionals from across the state are dedicated to preserving the uniqueness of our State and its communities. The diversity of our membership brings meaningful expertise and innovative perspectives to issues that address NH’s build environment.”

In March, an application was submitted to Plan NH. There is an indication of initial interest in the Whitcomb Hall project and there should be a final decision on selection within the next few weeks. Although there is no application fee, if Plan NH agrees to work with our community, they do ask for a \$5000 contribution which will be used to cover out-of-pocket expenses associated with the work effort and publication of a final report. This final report would provide valuable support in future grant seeking opportunities.

Miscellaneous:

H. Hill provided a draft case statement required as part of the assistance application to NH Preservation Alliance.

Next meeting:

May 23rd, 4:00pm, Town Hall