

**Town of Cape Elizabeth  
Spurwink Church Study Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
July 18, 2005  
7:00 p.m. Town Hall  
Basement Conference Room**

**Present**        Jane Beckwith  
                     Daniel Chase  
                     Carol Fritz  
                     Darren McLellan  
                     R. Bruce Munger  
                     Elizabeth B. Peterson  
                     Ann R. Strout

**Staff**            Ernie MacVane, Facilities Manager Ex-officio

**Guest**           Janet Hannigan, Spurwink Church Greeter  
                     Jeanne Munger, Town Resident

The second meeting of the ad-hoc committee convened on Monday, July 18, 2005 at 7:05 p.m.

**Approval of Minutes for June 6, 2005 meeting**

Moved by C. Fritz and seconded by J. Beckwith to approve the minutes.  
Motion passed unanimously.

**Discussion on Use of Facility – Janet Hannigan, Church Greeter**

Janet Hannigan provided a great deal of information to the committee about usage:

- The facility is available for use from May 1<sup>st</sup> through October 31<sup>st</sup>
- Actual use is only 30-60 days per year
- Maximum capacity is 150 people
- Primarily used for weddings
  - Charges are \$325 for out-of-state, \$225 for in-state (\$50 return if kept in good condition)
  - 2-day rental - 1 day rehearsal (1 hour) and 1 day wedding (2 hours)
- Also used for art shows, Portland String Quartet concerts, and pump organ recitals
- The CEHS used to have history class visits up until 2004
- Also used for funerals

Janet also provided information about promotional methods:

- Use of the Church is promoted on the Cape Elizabeth web site
- The Church was written up in *Down East* magazine
- She put together a brochure to promote weddings

Janet also discussed physical problems with the Church:

- Gaps in the foundation allow rodents into the Church
  - With the addition of heating in the winter, it increases the number of rodents nesting in the building
  - Rodents have done damage to the pump organ
- The bell tower leaks resulting in water damage to the vestibule and rodents nest in the vestibule because of openings in the bell tower
- Windows need to be replaced

Janet also provided some history about restorations of the physical property

- In March 1982, carpet was replaced with a reproduction of an original style carpet
- Shades and sheers have been replaced
- No bathroom facilities are in the Church (An outhouse is available at the graveyard)

Other comments

- Janet would like to see more involvement by the community in use of the Church
- Possible open houses to further educate the community about the history of the Church

### **Presentation of Information**

#### ***Carol (for Millicent) - Maine Preservation Society***

- Millicent contacted the Maine Preservation Society (MPS)
- MPS provided names of two preservation architects
  - Nancy Barba
  - Chris Glass (has a particular interest in churches)
- Committee consensus was that we would need the services of a preservation architect, however, it will be later in the process
- MPS said there were alternatives to improving the foundation without moving the building

#### ***Darren - Greater Portland Landmarks and Maine Historic Preservation Commission***

- Darren provided a letter from the Maine Historic Preservation Commission (MHPC) a copy of which is attached
- We may want to get idea from similar churches in Maine that have been restored
  - A similar church is on Route 15 toward Biddeford Pool

#### ***Dan - Historical information from town records***

- Dan provided a summary of his research, a copy of which is attached

### **Engineer's Report – Further Discussion**

Prepared by Pinkham & Greer Consulting Engineers, Inc. dated November 13, 2003

Re: Spurwink Church Restoration Work

- The cost for the work recommended in the report may be low relative to current pricing expectations
- The consensus of the committee was that the foundation is the highest priority, and that we should set aside a meeting to specifically discuss work to be done to the foundation and the process to be used

### **Schedule Committee Tour of the Spurwink Church**

Site Visit by Committee Members at 2:00 p.m. (In conjunction with Landmarks Advisory Service tour)

### **Scope of Committee Charge**

Moved by R. Munger and seconded by C. Fritz to table the scope discussion until next meeting.

Motion passed unanimously.

### **Proposed Agenda for Next Meeting - Monday, August 15**

Site Visit by Committee Members at 2:00 p.m. (In conjunction with Landmarks Advisory Service tour)

Approval of minutes from July 18

Discussion of Site Visit

Scope of Committee Charge

### **Adjournment**

After hearing no further business, Co-Chairmen Munger and McLellan adjourned the meeting at 8:47 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
R. Bruce Munger, Co-Chairman