

**Town of Cape Elizabeth
Spurwink Church Study Committee
Meeting Minutes
March 15, 2006
7:00 p.m. Town Hall
William H. Jordan Conference Room**

Present Jane Beckwith
 Daniel Chase
 Carol Fritz
 Darren McLellan, Co-Chairman
 R. Bruce Munger, Co-Chairman
 Elizabeth B. Peterson
 Ann R. Strout

Absent Paul McKenney

Staff Debra Lane, Asst. Town Manager Ex-officio
 Ernie MacVane, Facilities Manager Ex-officio

The tenth meeting of the ad-hoc committee convened on Wednesday, March 15, 2006 at 7:08 p.m.

Approval of Minutes – February 15, 2006

Moved by Carol Fritz and Seconded by Bruce Munger to approve the minutes of the meeting held February 15, 2006 as written.
(6 yes) (1 abstention D. McLellan – absent from previous meeting)

Report on the Priority List

At the February meeting, the committee expressed interest in John Leeke, Preservation Consultant preparing the priority list based on the work already done by the committee. Approval to expend the funds was obtained from the town manager. Mr. Leeke's report was provided to the committee for discussion at the next meeting.

Brainstorming Session – Fund Raising

The committee's charge includes a recommendation on how any plan would be funded.

After much discussion it was a consensus of the committee to recommend a fund raising committee. Expertise and experience in fund raising a plus. The composition of the committee and suggested fund raising tasks will be outlined in the final report. The committee also brainstormed on suggested fund raising ideas.

Time Line

Understanding the project is based on success of the fund raising efforts, a potential time line will be in the final report.

Debra was asked to pose the following questions to Michael McGovern, Town Manager.

Are donations to the Town for the Spurwink Church tax deductible?

Yes, Donations to the Town are tax deductible.

Would you consider a bond or a substantial Town cash donation to the Spurwink Church restoration effort?

No, I am not planning to recommend that the Town borrow or donate substantial funds to the effort to restore the Spurwink Church. A citizen survey conducted in December 2005 by the professional firm, Critical Insights, showed that only 25% of Cape Elizabeth residents would support increasing taxes for the preservation of town owned historic structures and places. With the pressing needs elsewhere in our community and with the perceived overall desire of citizens to have tax increases restrained (as evidenced by other questions in the same survey), any bonding or tax increase that I propose will be for more critical needs. The Council could consider a bond or a donation, but it will not be at my initiative.

As the Spurwink Church is not a core service of the community, I believe that it is best supported through donations and user fees.

Do you have thoughts on year round use of the church?

Yes, I do not think that the church should be open year round. My reason for this primarily relates to parking. The small parking lot across from the church is not suitable for wintertime use. The donation of this land was with a deed restriction that this lot be kept as natural as possible. That is why it remains grassed with just a natural looking split rail fence. Wintertime use would require a much-enhanced surface, which would be against the spirit of the donation. There is no other location in the immediate area that lends itself to the creation of a paved parking lot. It is also clear that this is not a good location for on-street parking.

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The town manager notes that the committee is charged with making independent recommendations. The committee is totally free to make recommendations that are in conflict with the manager's (and staff) position.

The fourth charge of the committee is to review and make recommendations on the town's position on ownership and responsibility of the church.

Moved by Bruce Munger and Seconded by Jane Beckwith

The Spurwink Church Study Committee recommends that the ownership and care of The Spurwink Church remain with the Town of Cape Elizabeth.

Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting Schedule & Agenda

Meetings will begin at 7:00 p.m.

Location: William H. Jordan Conference Room at Town Hall

Wednesday, April 12 7:00 p.m.

Make final recommendations for the scope of the project.

Review the outline for the final report.

Monday, May 8 7:00 p.m.

Review the draft report.

Wednesday, May 24 7:00 p.m.

Finalize the report.

Adjournment

Moved by Bruce Munger and Seconded by Carol Fritz to adjourn at
9:15 p.m.

Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,
Debra M. Lane, Assistant Town Manager