



TOWN OF NEW DURHAM
Board of Selectmen
Meetinghouse Committee Charge

Preamble:

The 1772 Meetinghouse is situated on Old Bay Road and by its very name provides the clue as to its original use by past residents of the Town of New Durham. This was the building that began the process of local town governance in a fledgling democratic manner. The historical decisions made determined the origins and growth of the Town of New Durham. The Town Historian should be the reference point as to the buildings' actual history. The historical biography now provides the platform for the formation of a Committee. This committee shall be composed of committed individuals with areas of expertise in restoration and rehabilitation, building elements, site preservation, grant writing, research, planning and communication, and cultural event organization. The Committee shall be appointed by the Board of Selectmen under RSA 41:8 to assist them in the management and future of the building for the use and enjoyment of the community.

Committee Charge:

- I. Call organizational meeting to determine meeting schedules, and election of officers. The Committee is subject to the Right to Know law, and therefore is mandated to maintain committee minutes of the meetings' proceedings, and duly post notices of meetings. Further, part of the Committee's mission should be to educate and engage the citizens of New Durham in a revitalized community "Meetinghouse" space.
- II. Establish partnerships with the Land & Community Heritage Investment program (LCHIP) and Division of Historical Resources for consultative help and appropriate professional historical resources. Establish partnerships with the New Durham Historical Society and Town Historian for input and donations.
- III. Reports should be composed and presented to the board. Any planned expenses and work approval orders to be coordinated solely with the Board prior to any work authorization.
- IV. Create a comprehensive rehabilitation plan. Rehabilitation is defined by the The Secretary of the Interior's "Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties: Rehabilitation as a Treatment and Standards for Rehabilitation" as the act or process of making possible a compatible use for a property through repair, alterations, and additions while preserving those portions or features which convey its historical, cultural, or architectural values.
 - Determine immediate need and action for any stabilization of the building.

- Seek professional assistance for conduct of a Historic Structure Report (HSR) per the recommendations of the Land and Community Heritage Investment program (LCHIP).
- Interview with a Select board liaison, a consultant to compose the HSR, and apply for grant funding for the consultative report through LCHIP.

V. Create a Strategic Plan

Build on the prior efforts of town historian and others to:

- Rehabilitate the building per the recommendations of the HSR.
- Seek out potential funding sources
- Develop estimated costs associated with strategic planning recommendations and timelines for practical implementation.
- Maintenance of the historical integrity of the whole site ~ land and building.
- Hold public hearings re the Strategic Plan for community input and “buy in” factor.

VI. Develop and Implement a Community Use Plan

- Create partnership and input from the Town Historian, Historical Society, Recreation Director and Commission for cultural and “themed” activities.
- Coordinate with local schools, libraries, boards, commissions, nonprofit and interest groups to develop and implement a broad range of community use events.

VII. Develop and Implement a Long Term Maintenance Plan

Develop and implement a viable long term maintenance plan which builds on broad community use of and support for the Meetinghouse and assures continued public / taxpayer support for ongoing maintenance costs.

Estimated timeline and life of the Committee to be reviewed on an annual basis, and subject to completion and recommendations per the Committee Charge.

Board of Selectmen

Developed and Enacted at Board Meeting of December 6th, 2006

Edited and Enacted at Board Meeting of September 9, 2024