

Ad Hoc Stone Building Feasibility/Reuse Committee

March 18, 2021 8:00 AM

Town of Lexington, MA

MINUTES

The meeting began at 8:05 with a roll call, and statement on use of virtual meetings for fulfilling the open meeting requirement, followed by committee member online roll call.

Attending: Jill Hai (Select Board Liaison), Cristina Burwell, Devan Marks, Lester Savage, Anne Grady, Melinda Nasardinov, Mark Manasas, Paul Smyke, Carolyn Goldstein, Jeff Howry (Chair), Meg Muckenhoupt (Appropriations Committee Liaison), Claire Feingold Thoryn (Cary Library Trustees Liaison)

Absent: None

Recording Secretary: Cristina Burwell

Community Observers: Elaine Ashton

1. Approval of minutes from last meeting (March 4, 2021)

A motion to approve minutes was made by Anne, seconded by Mark, with unanimous approval.

2. Guest speaker: Lynne Spencer, one of the authors of the 2009 Historic Structure Report & Recommendations for Rehabilitation & Reuse, provided an overview and remembrances of the building from the report. She began her involvement when a steam heating problem caused a substantial leak in this branch of Cary Library, which served as a catalyst to rethink what was happening in the building.

Lynne's discussion touched upon several interesting points such as code changes since the time of the report, business vs. assembly use, structural capacity, possible continued deterioration, and why the Lexington Historical Society has not pursued a similar solution akin to the other three historical buildings of note in town.

3. Open issues

- a. **Planning of Public Forum** - Cristina was assigned with providing forum oversight and will collect information to propose a recommendation for a forum date at the next meeting (suggested for later in April after Town meeting and

school vacation week). Mark was assigned with putting together an outreach contact list, and will have a finalized list ready by the next meeting. Carolyn was assigned with finalizing the press release and will coordinate with Sean Dugan (Lexington PIO) for review, and will have it finalized for committee vote at the next meeting. The Colonial Times publisher is interested in featuring the Stone Building committee work. They will be part of our media outreach.

4. **New business**

- a. **Building plans** - Jeff reported that there are not any plans with definitive measurements, and he will be going to the building to take measurements so that we know the scale.
- b. **Historical essays** - Melinda referenced research papers written about women's history in Lexington that can be found in *Bold Women of Lexington, 1790-1865*** which are particularly relevant.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Anne, seconded by Paul, and approved unanimously. Meeting ended at 9:26 am.

** These papers can be found at <https://www.lexingtonhistory.org/exhibits.html>. The papers are labeled #2 and #3, and when asked whether there was a paper #1 it seems there is one about spinners, but the author is considering publishing so it is not available on the web.