April 10th – THPC Meeting Notes

Officials Present - Council/THPC Chairman James Sullivan
Employees present: Acting Town Administrator Janet Bouchard – DPW Director Earl Labonte – CEO Matt Lavoie – Town Engineer Bruce Thomas, Project Coordinator Nick G.

Topics Discussed

- Chief Bouchard received a clear opinion from legal counsel stating that, given the result of the failed restoration warrant article in March, no funds should be expended on old town hall until the next fiscal year’s budget cycle came into effect. This is in line with the “one chance” appropriation rule that’s a fundamental part of state budgetary law.

- Project Coordinator suggested that grant funds for the singing gallery restoration may be different as they’re already dispersed and were quoted to completely cover costs.

- CEO noted that even if the town’s able to do the work, the project on its own creates a problem that would have to be solved by using non-grant funds. Specifically, the gallery room (formerly the town administrator’s 2nd floor office) would be rendered inaccessible by covering up the old entranceway. This is a problem because the space above the tin ceiling on / near the main hall rafters would then be inaccessible too. Current building plans call for a drop down ladder to be incorporated into one of the bathrooms, but this is NOT a grant-funded activity.

- Chief Bouchard stated she’d get a further legal opinion about using the grant funds and if creating a 2nd floor access point would be possible as it may be a safety hazard.

- Individuals present agreed that further progress on the building’s physical restoration was probably shelved until warrant article failure window passed, but that the property or overall restoration planning be ignored.

- Project Coordinator suggested this would be a good period to increase the depth of organizational planning surrounding Old Town hall.

- New town administrator may have ideas/opinions.

- DPW Director, Town Engineer, and Project Coordinator established that regular, bi-monthly inspections would take place regardless if work is being done there or not to monitor the property’s health/security.

Notes created by Nick G., Project Coordinator.