



PLUMTREES SCHOOLHOUSE & LANDMARK PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

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TOWN OF BETHEL
TOWN CLERK

MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING

Thursday, March 6, 2008
11:00 pm
Plumtrees Schoolhouse

PRESENT: Leroy Staib, Trisha Lewis, Charles Hurd, and Edwin Rockwell.

ABSENT: Jon Menti, Charles Steck, and David Morgan

GUEST: Gregory Farmer, Circuit Rider, CT Trust for Historic Preservation

CALL TO ORDER: Leroy Staib called the meeting to order at 11:10am.

1. Leroy Staib gave Mr. Farmer a brief history of the school building and use. He continued with the restoration that had been done to date.
2. Mr. Farmer gave the committee an overview of the options for preservation and restoration.
 - a. The building should be designated as a historic landmark in at least one of three ways.
 - i. Local: The town of Bethel can designate the Schoolhouse as a Historic Landmark. Further, the town should designate a Preservation Easement on the building and property. This easement may be then granted to the PSLPC. This will provide a checks and balances system for the future of the Schoolhouse.
 - ii. State: The Schoolhouse was placed on the State of CT Historic Register in the Fall of 2007.
 - iii. National: The National Historic Register would make the building eligible for additional grant money.
 - b. To apply for the National Historic Register the Committee, with the assistance from a consultant, needs to complete the following steps.
 - c. Document the history of the building
 - d. Physical—Construction, Expansion, and current condition

- i. Uses—History of use of the building.
 - e. Develop a use plan
 - i. Restoration required and how it will be accomplished
 - ii. Plan for use when restoration is complete
 - iii. Plan for future operations, including finances
 - f. Complete the National Historic Register Application
- 3. Mr. Farmer also discussed the methods for funding the Restoration and Application process.
 - a. The committee needs to determine if Bethel is a Certified Local Government. If it is, there are state grants available. Generally funds have to be matched 1:1. Volunteer hours can be counted toward match.
 - b. CT Trust for Historic Preservation has Technical Assistance Grants available to assist with the Preparation of National Historic Register Application. A consultant is generally hired to prepare these documents. The next CT Trust for Historic Preservation grant application deadline is in September.
 - i. Leroy Staib has submitted a pre-application which required additional information. This information was gathered during Mr. Farmer's visit. He will notify the Committee if further information is needed for the pre-application.
 - ii. The committee can begin the process of interviewing and accepting bids from the Consultants prior to submitting the Application.
 - iii. These grants require a 1:1 match of funds, volunteer hours, or in kind donations.
- 4. Mr. Farmer also reported to the Committee that there are additional grants available.
 - a. Capital Improvement Grants: These are for making capital improvements/restorations to the building. The next Deadline is October 31, 2008.
 - b. Further, application to the National Historic register will make additional grants available.

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Shani Burke Specht,
Recording Secretary