

Contoocook Railroad Museum

Board of Directors Monthly Meeting 02/15/2024

Meeting called to order 1:05 PM by Brian Erickson

Attendees:

Brian Erickson	President
Steven Lux Jr.	Vice President
David White	Treasurer
Linda Ogden	Secretary (acting)
Mark Winzeler	Director
Frederic Nystrom	Director

Secretary's Report/Approval of Minutes: January minutes approved 1:15 PM

Treasurer's Report:

No income reported for January. However some income is expected for February.

Old Business:

- a. Section House roof:
Steve Lux is in contact with Emerson (co. name?) as to his availability to install the roofing material that is stored in the museum parking lot. Still needed is a written contract from Emerson.
- b. Brick Walkway:
Lee Anne and Meredith in support of the project but will procure their own patio bricks. We intend to have their bricks and our own laid down by the same installer. Our walkway will be 3 ft. wide, the rest will be Lee Anne's. We will allow Lee Anne's bricks to overlap our property line so as to make an attractive installation.
Dave: The details of how the walkway should integrate with the pavement at the depot center doorway is to be worked out.
We want the walkway to be completed for the 2024 season opening.
- c. Canopy project:
Steve: Contacted Karen at the town office as to what the town requires for permissions and approval of the structure design, property layout, setback requirements, etc. A less detailed stamped site plan should pass without difficulty.
Construction details need not be exhaustive. Simplified structural drawings may be all that is needed to secure town approval as long as code requirements are met, such as wind loading, column strength, support spacing, beam strength, etc. A 2 ft. setback may be required. Dan Higgins may donate a survey.
Fred will ask Chi if he'd like to bid on a turnkey project. We would pay him a fee for the planning work. We're waiting for Eric Sideleau to return from California and provide more detail of the design that he has bid on. Eric's bid mentions 14 support posts, while Chi's sketch shows only ten. This must be sorted out.
- d. Visitor Center:
Dave White will present at tonight's meeting of the Economic Development Committee.

He will request funding for the visitor center. We will ask the Rotary to support an earlier opening of the museum.

- e. NH Preservation alliance report:
On Monday February 26 Andrew Cushing from the Alliance will conduct an inspection of the depot and property. Acceptance by the Alliance will increase chances of success in securing grants from LCHIP and others. The report is expected to be issued by March. The fee is \$1,000 of which David White will contribute \$500.
- f. Misc.:
 - i. Highway signs: A sign on Rt. 89 mentioning the depot and bridge would cost \$1,000 per year. We could advertise in historical places.
 - ii. Flea market: It is proposed that the CRA hold a flea market. The layout would have 30 positions at \$20-\$25 each every Sunday. Eight ft. tables would be required. Evaluate whether it would interfere with the Visitor Center activities. Toby may not open the Davisville Flea Market this year, giving a boost to a CRA operation.

New Business:

- a. New membership push - Various attendees offered the following:
 - i. Develop a sticker for car windows or wallet card to prove membership.
 - ii. Maintain a list of members readily available on the depot tablet. This to allow quick lookup of visitors who show up without proof. A rolling list would be kept there and on the website.
 - iii. A monthly email blast would be helpful to encourage continued interest. An email reminder should be sent out automatically to remind members to renew, and a reminder card via snail mail.
After the email blast, a reception with rewards and prizes may be a big encouragement for members.
 - iv. A big push for 100 new members by the end of August 2024 to be conducted.
- b. TDS/Comcast: Board to seek a discount, someone should volunteer to call.
- c. Fundraising ideas:
 - i. Push local donations, identify and contact railfans, broadcast an appeal in Susan Covert's email distribution.
 - ii. Move the old donation box to the rest room.
- d. Rail rests:
 - i. Consider placing them close to the covered bridge.

Annual Meeting:

- a. Set the meeting for April.

Meeting adjourned - 2:03 PM