

SELECT BOARD & HISTORICAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 17, 2018 at 6:30pm
TOWN HALL, SELECT BOARD CONFERENCE ROOM

CALL TO ORDER/OPENING

Historical Commission Chair Don Lennerton called the meeting to order at 6:33pm. Don Lennerton, Kathleen Wilson, Debra Friedman, Joe Lennerton, Jason Grimshaw, Kristen Forsberg, Rigoberto Alfonso, David Genereux, Harry Brooks and Sandy Wilson were in attendance. Dianna Provencher arrived at 6:43pm creating a quorum for the Select Board.

The future of the former Swan Tavern located at 1 Paxton Street and now owned by the Town was discussed. The Library is using 1 Paxton Street as a temporary location until the library expansion and renovation project is complete. Using the building as a local museum was discussed as the Town does not currently have any space to display its historical artifacts. The need for a preservation restriction if the property were to be sold was discussed given the historic nature of this building, which is also on the National Historic Register. The Town would need to draft a preservation restriction and have it placed in perpetuity on the deed.

Mr. Genereux discussed the annual operating costs for 1 Paxton Street which are approximately \$16,000 based on the library having operated out of this location for 16 months. The option of renting out the building for events and having a gift shop to help offset ownership costs were both discussed. Mr. Lennerton noted that the Historical Commission no longer has a budget but they do have a few hundred dollars in donations and a \$3,000 article for maintaining Town owned historic properties. In kind donations from businesses to cover some of the maintenance costs were discussed.

The Board and Commission reviewed a memo from Library Director Suzanne Hall regarding yearly operation costs and maintenance issues that must be addressed and discussed how some of these costs would be reduced when it the building is no longer being used as a library. Turning the building over to the Historical Commission to operate was discussed.

Mr. Genereux noted that the proposed Fall Town Meeting article authorizes the Select Board to make decisions regarding the future of the building. The article does not require the Town to sell the building and includes language regarding preservation restrictions and a methodology for disposition of the property should the Board make this decision. Passing over this article and putting it on the May Annual Town Meeting warrant was discussed. Both Boards discussed having a joint building walkthrough with a historic building expert.

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Brooks and seconded by Ms. Wilson at 7:22pm. The motion carried unanimously.