Friends of the Otisville School – Regular Board Meeting

Tuesday, June 7, 2016

Present:

Directors: Bob Clouse, Alison Miller, Bill Mitchelitch

Guests: Betty Jean Bonagura, Kathy Coppola, Mary Ann McDonough,

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 pm. Minutes from the May 12, 2016, meeting were approved at 7:16 pm.

Correspondence:

Mary Ann McDonough – donation of $50.00

IRS – Confirmation of EIN/Tax ID Number: 81-2711662

Old Business:

1. Application for 501C3 – this will need to happen soon. We will need to file the 1023EZ form so we are officially tax-exempt. Bob will bring his iPad and we have WiFi at the Village Hall, so we will do this at the next meeting.
2. Public Hearings for Referendum – As far as we know, the Town/Town Supervisor is still awaiting bids for rehabbing the school, to present at the public hearings prior to the vote. At this point it looks as though the hearings will not happen until summer and the referendum vote not until fall.
3. Board Members – We are still looking for additional board members. Alison will put out a call on the Mount Hope United Facebook page.

New Business:

1. Meeting Notice – Bob will send an email reminder prior to all upcoming meetings.
2. Meeting with Town Supervisor – Bob met with Chad Volpe and believes Chad is in support of the hearings and the referendum. Bob also believes we should ask the Town for money if the public votes to turn the school over to FOTOS – since we assert that the Town neglected its due diligence in doing basic maintenance and repairs on the school in the 8 years since it was closed.
3. OC Grant Writer – Alison suggested renewing our connection with Megan Tennerman at the Orange County Planning Dept. Megan originally met with the Old Otisville School Committee and provided much information about available grants. She also offered to help us write grants.
4. Networking with Warwick Valley Community Center – Mary Ann suggested we renew our contact with the WVCC, as they did something very similar with a local school building that we propose to do with ours. Frank Ketcham had initial contact with the director at WVCC.
5. Time Frame for FOTOS – If the public votes to turn the school over to FOTOS, we would like to propose a 1-year grace period, followed by 5 years of work/rehab/fund-raising to establish the school as a community center. After that total 6-year period, we would re-evaluate where we stand and decide on a future plan.
6. Current Funds – We have $150.00 in our bank account. We need $400.00 to file the 1023EZ form. We briefly discussed the idea of reaching out to well-known and/or wealthy benefactors who have ties to the Minisink/Otisville community.
7. Website/Outreach – Alison will talk to Lisa Garcia, who created an original website for the Old Otisville School Committee, to see if the website can be updated/maintained/given a new address for FOTOS.
8. Spreading the Word – We spent some time talking about how to get the word out about FOTOS and our efforts. Suggestions:
   1. Posting in multiple Facebook groups, including Otisville Memories, Mount Hope United, Minisink Moms, Orange County Moms, Minisink Community Forum (Alison will do this)
   2. Having a tent or table at the Historical Society’s upcoming Open House on June 18th.
   3. Giving our Power Point presentation to the Senior Citizens Group. We will ask Frank Ketcham to contact Diane Loeven about this.
   4. Otisville Alumni Dinner will be held September 24 at the Firehouse – could we give our Power Point presentation there? Perhaps the alumni mailing list could also be shared with FOTOS? Bob will look into this.
   5. Donations can be sent to P.O. Box 64, Otisville, NY 10963
   6. Alison will look into our original email newsletter list, created after the initial vote to not sell the school building.
9. Fiscal Year – established as January 1 – December 31 (this year only, will run from April 19, 2016 – December 31, 2016).
10. Signatures for Checks – At the next meeting, we will change the bylaws so that any two officers can sign checks, rather than only the President and Treasurer.
11. Electronic Version of By-laws – Bill will scan Bob’s copy of the by-laws and email them to everyone, so we each have an electronic version of them.

Next Meeting: Monday, July 11, 7:00 pm Village Hall

Meeting Adjourned at 8:06 pm.