



6:30 PM – Call Meeting to Order

Mr. Martin called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM

Present: Dave Martin, Chairman, John Brox, Patrick Cox, Mary Ellen McCarthy, Kylie Desrosiers

Absent: Alison Genest

Approval of Minutes for meeting on December 18, 2023.

Motion to accept made by Mr. Cox, Second by Mr. Brox. Motion Passed by unanimous vote.

Discussion of terminology for definition of Pergola and Gazebo by Mr. Martin. The correct name for the proposed building project on BBF grounds would be called a gazebo since it has a closed roof.

Discuss Prioritized Enhancements List

Discussion of Prioritized Enhancements List for the proposed building site by materials used and orientation.

Mr. Martin gave the members 5 pictures of possible structure plans using a variety of enhancements and materials.

Discussion followed by all members about location and orientation of the building. Ms. Desrosiers suggested that the new building gazebo follow at an angle in front of the trees, going from the right side of the Squash Barn, sloping down toward the proposed ampi-theater area.

Mrs. McCarthy added agreement since she had walked the property again and commented that the gazebo should follow the tree line at the area of trees and face true south to benefit from natural sun and face the area of picnic tables and seated visitors at each venue.

VOTE #1 - A motion from Mr. Cox on Location of the gazebo that the building be angled East in front of the tree line and going from West to East across the cleared patch of grass. The measure of the structure should be 24' by 32' so as to use perfect measure of 8' lengths of cut lumber and beaming. Second by Mrs. McCarthy. Motion Passed by unanimous vote.

Discussion followed by all members present to decide Orientation and Design. Mr. Brox stated that it would be easier for the building crew if 8' spans of wood beaming be used. Posts on the cement slab should anchor the build. Corners should be built up from underneath to add support in the cement. Also, Mr. Brox added comment that the cement could be put down with a brushed top finish to look more designed. The design for the beams/wood placement and exact size of the beams should be calculated

by an architect or perhaps be done by the town building maintenance crews. Whichever design would be weight load appropriate and up to code requirements.

* Idea from Ms. Desrosiers and discussed by all members was to have a "Stamp or Design Placement Activity" by the public or by the BBF community. This could be a fundraiser to raise funds for the project and enhance public participation on the project. The base of the build being a cement slab should also follow code guidelines.

VOTE #2 - Motion by Mr. Brox to use a cement/ concrete slab at the base with added bracing in the pour for added support and durability to the build. The roof should be a hip roof to follow building design of the Squash Barn. The roof should be of Architectural Shingle design. Second by Ms. Desrosiers. Motion Passed with a unanimous vote.

Mr. Brox discussed use of rough-hewn rafters with the use of Sikkens Stain known for its durability and longer lasting protection of the wood products. Use of 1" boards with 1/2" plywood would be most common usage with 16-on-center plywood placement by code. Best idea would be, if possible for future use, for a water access lawn hydrant set in the site to be used for functions and future venues.

Mr. Martin suggested lighting with two runs/pipes to have access for the staff and venue usage. Use collar ties and braces to keep from beam and lumber movement as directed by the architect/ building professional. Utilities to be added by code and amount of financial backing available.

Mr. Martin is still looking into the responsibilities of financial record keeping and who will retain control over funds available and who will make financial decisions of monies spent and how recorded. Will further financial responsibility fall under the jurisdiction of the Town of Dracut or Friends of Beaver Brook Farm Administration now and with future endeavors.

* IDEA ? Karen suggested the addition of a cupola with a weathervane atop the building for aesthetic design and lightening safety. Mr. Brox said he could make a cedar or Azek to with copper skirting. It was suggested to have 3 sets of plans for the cupola perhaps the BBF Committee would vote on favorite choice and materials. She will look into this added small project further.

*IDEA? Ms. Desrosiers suggested another aesthetic look and added dimension would be to build a stone edge around the concrete base of the building slab as shown on one of the building plan drawings presented by Mr. Martin. Discussion will follow when build is finished and revenues can be used for future added growth.

Mr. Brox suggested that the topic of the Seed Shed be discussed at the next meeting.

Mr. Martin would like to discuss possible venues for this new building and site, at this stage of development, which will solicit and attract possible income to support progress at the BBF.

The next meeting will be to focus on the public seating areas. Jennifer Rogers is to come on 1/22/2024 for a presentation on related topics and events which may relate to the new build of the gazebo as a venue site promoting future income potential.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 PM by Mr. Martin

Submitted for acceptance by Mary Ellen McCarthy, BBF Ad-Hoc Sub-Committee