

## **Solomon Welles House Committee (SWHC)** **Minutes of Meeting on Tuesday, January 10, 2006**

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. In attendance were Kathy Bagley, Deb Balzo, Carolyn Bedula, Nancy Doyle, Cheryl Gardow, Mary Mahar, Marilyn McPhee, and Nancy Smith.

A. Welcome: Mary Mahar welcomed new member, Nancy Doyle to SWHC.

B. [Minutes of October 11, 2005](#) were reviewed and accepted.

C. Letters & Announcements

1. Letters: Mary Mahar suggested a thank you note be sent to Wethersfield Garden Club for their work on decorations for the House.

2. Announcements: None

D. Pending Business

1. Budget Report: Kathy Bagley reported on status of budget, indicating that repair costs on the House had been higher than usual, with more than half of the repair account spent. Costs were related to electrical and plumbing work, interior and exterior painting, cleaning of drapes, the purchase of household supplies, and other necessary repairs. While Kathy cautioned that monies for repairs would be limited until the end of fiscal year end (June 30th), she suggested the April meeting as a time to develop a "to do list" for the House. New monies will be available as of July 1st. Electricity and oil budget accounts have not been impacted so far, as heating bills for December have not posted as of yet. These costs are to be reflected later this month.

E. Committee Reports

1. Exterior Projects: Kathy Bagley reported that before the October 2005 Committee meeting, several exterior projects including painting had been performed. A list of outstanding "to do" items for the exterior remains and will continue to be looked at and worked upon.

2. Interior Projects:

- i. Updating Photos in Collages Displayed in Meeting Room: Mary Mahar updated the Committee on the status of this project. Collages were removed after the Christmas Carol, and estimates were obtained from House of Images, Michaels, and Jo-Anne Fabric & Crafts for new frames / matting. After discussion, the Committee recommended that House of Images in Old Wethersfield be retained. The job will include copying current spacings for existing "beginning" collage photos, and creating new mats for new photos including those of the Garden Club decorations. The estimated cost is \$165.
- ii. Inventory/"Appraisal" of House Contents: Scheduled for Wednesday, January 18, 2006 at 6:30 p.m. Deb Balzo and Carolyn Bedula to meet with Caretaker to conduct inventory of house contents.
- iii. Review of Web-site: Provided Kathy Bagley with feedback regarding the current Town of Wethersfield / SWH web-site. Members commented on the number of steps required to get to the Solomon Welles House site via the Internet. Cheryl Gardow suggested including some history about the House on the current web-site.
- iv. Caretaker Report: Placed order at Wal-mart for (16) 33" square tables to replace the old 30" tables. Dana brought an electric candle light with a built in 8-hour timer to show Committee, and suggested this for use in each of the windows of the House at Christmas. Cost is \$39 for 6 candles, and would need a total of 25 for 1st and 2nd floors of House. Could be ordered through QVC. Also recommended new kitchen curtains, as the existing ones are very faded. Further discussion was held on having plants on porch in planters for upcoming summer months, vs. hanging baskets.
- v. Follow-up discussion was held regarding beveled piece of glass for the top of the chest in the Thornburg Room, and a new window treatment for upstairs bathroom. Discussed these items would wait until next fiscal year due to status of budget. Follow-up discussion was also held regarding the brass andirons in the two downstairs fireplaces. Carolyn Bedula indicated that she checked with local antiques dealer, Joan Hughes regarding polishing of andirons in two downstairs fireplaces. She stated that there is no consensus, but to make sure they are cleaned with a soft cloth to get any grit off. Committee discussed, and recommended to Dana that the andirons be kept clean, but unpolished

to maintain the patina.

3. New Business:

1. Kathy Bagley indicated in October 2005 sewer line which goes out to State St. became obstructed with tree roots, and a company was brought in to clear these out. In December 2005, the sewer line failed again. Have to look to replace sewer line, as existing clay pipe may be decaying. Brought this issue to Parks Board which is addressing this capital improvement as a priority item behind Millwood's Master Plan. Estimated cost is \$25,000. Look into completing this job in August when the House is generally closed for maintenance and repairs.

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cheryl Gardow