

## Solomon Welles House Committee Minutes of Meeting on Tuesday, October 11, 2005

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

- A. [Minutes of June 14, 2005](#) were reviewed and accepted.
- B. Letters & Announcements
  1. Letters: None
  2. Announcements: None
- C. Pending Business
  1. Budget Report: Kathy Bagley reported on status of budget, and cautioned that although funds have been replenished for the 2005-06 fiscal year, close attention will need to be paid to the cost of utilities going forward, due to current oil prices. Monies for repairs may be limited.
- D. Committee Reports
  1. Exterior Projects: Maintenance: Kathy Bagley reported on projects performed during the month of August when the House is typically closed for maintenance. Town Painter touched up painting on the interior of house and performed the following exterior projects: 1) painted another side of the house, 2) front porch repainted deck and railings, 3) soffit around porch - checked for rotten wood and painted, 4) steps from parking lot - painted a caution strip, 5) dormers - scraped and repainted, 6) cellar door / hatchway - repainted, 7) patched kitchen steps, but may need to rebuild, 8) pine tree - examined and is fine, will continue to check it and trim what need to, 9) Russian Olive Bush - still working on possibly having this removed.
  2. Interior Projects:
    - i. Updating Photos in Collages Displayed in Meeting Room: Mary Mahar reported that she spoke to Dana as a resource for acquiring pictures of events held at the House for updated collages. Pictures were gathered from Garden Club and Dana's husband, and were passed around to all the meeting attendees to see. The plan is to obtain new mats for the updated collages, and to place the old photos in an album.
    - ii. Inventory/"Appraisal" of House Contents: Kathy Bagley distributed three copies of the last inventory listing performed. A subcommittee has been formed to verify what items on the list are still at the house, and to make additions to the list for new items.
    - iii. Review of Web-site: Kathy Bagley asked for feedback regarding the current Town of Wethersfield / SWH web-site. She suggested that members review the web-site (wethersfieldct.com) and provide suggestions (i.e., user-friendly nature, marketing, overall appeal).
    - iv. Caretaker Tour of House Interior: Dana, the Caretaker joined the meeting and a tour of the interior was conducted.

Downstairs: Thornburg Room: Player piano was moved to the Community Center as planned and replaced with a chest - discussion was held regarding getting a beveled piece of glass for the top of this chest. Garden Club will put Christmas tree in this area during the holidays. Notice was given to the new mylar shades. Discussion was held regarding the brass andirons in the two downstairs fireplaces. Dana indicated she had started polishing them but questioned whether they should kept to maintain their patina. Carolyn Bedula indicated she would check with local antiques dealer, Joan Hughes.

Upstairs: Members toured the Welles Room, Conference Room, Bathroom, and two rooms used for storage. Welles Room: Notice was given to new Mylar shades recently installed. Conference Room - Dana indicated this room was used twice during the past year. Dana suggested that the six current chairs in the Conference Room be replaced with chairs kept in a room across the hall. The Committee concurred with this suggestion. She also asked that consideration be given to redoing the floor in this room.

Bathroom: discussion was held on considering a new window treatment for upstairs bathroom.

Storage Room: needs painting.

Dana asked the Committee to consider requests for the following: dehumidifier for cellar, repair of handicapped railing post, new shop vacuum, and vacuum cleaner. Also indicated that no longer make Tarkett, the product used on kitchen floor. Asked members to keep an eye out for this. Additionally, Dana has located 33" tables at Costco to replace existing 30" tables - she has put in an order for them, but indicated there may be a problem in getting replacements for all tables.

- v. Capital Improvements: Kathy Bagley reviewed the 2005-2015 Capital Improvement Program for the SWH, which includes parking lot improvements, painting of house exterior (do a side each year), and roof replacement. She further noted that there are no leaks in the roof, as the town painter checks for these, and cleans the gutters. Kathy also informed the group about the sewer line which goes out to State St. This sometimes gets obstructed by the roots of trees, and may need to be dug up. Marilyn McPhee suggested establishing a maintenance contract with someone, as a possibility for addressing this problem.
3. New Business: Kathy Bagley indicated that the White Oak Doll Association which has been meeting at the house for a long period of time, no longer have a Wethersfield resident as a member to fill out the permit for usage of the House. The group typically uses the House during the daytime. Request was sought for approval to allow the group to continue to meet at the House despite the fact they no longer have a Wethersfield resident as a member. The Committee approved this exception until the end of the year, with the condition that priority continue to be given Wethersfield residents who request to use the House. Approval will be required on a year to year basis, as long as there continues to be no Wethersfield resident as a member of this group.
4. Review of the Solomon Welles House Use Report: It was noted there was a decrease in usage and attendance from 216 meetings and 9,610 in attendance in 2003-2004, to 206 meetings and 9,104 in attendance in 2004-2005. Further discussion was held regarding the groups that meet at the House on a consistent basis, including a Sunday Church Group, AA, and White Oak Doll Association.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cheryl Gardow