

Lanes Cove Fish Shack Building Committee  
Minutes of meeting of 10/3/2011

The tenth meeting of the Lanes Cove Fish Shack Building Committee was held at the City Hall Annex on Pond Rd at 2:02 pm on October 3, 2011

Members present were: (7 of 7 thus a quorum)

Jim Hafey (Chairman)

Damon Cummings (Secretary)

Barbara Jobe

Bill Sanborn

Russell Hobbs

Jim Caulkett

Lisa Press

Minutes of the meeting of September 26, 2011 were accepted.

Barbara Jobe will be posting notices of meetings and minutes on the city web site. Damon Cummings will forward those to her in .pdf form. Note – the notice of today's meeting is already posted so the system is working.

The letters from the committee to Mayor Kirk and to Tim Thurman and Ryan MacArthur were accepted and will be delivered or mailed by Damon.

There was discussion about starting a web page or message board for the committee. Damon will look into a YUKU account and Barbara will see if messages can be attached to the city board where our minutes and notices are posted.

There has been a break in and break out at the shack and damage to a window and door was repaired by Jim Hafey. He will report the incident to the police.

It is hoped that Treehouse design can generate a materials list so we can talk to possible sources. Mike Carrigan has offered trees. Russell Hobbs will contact the Natti mill to inquire if they might help with reducing logs to rough sawn timbers and sticker them up for us. It was suggested that we contact the Gloucester Fund about serving as a conduit for tax deductible contributions. Jim Caulkett will talk to Barry Pett about this. We are concerned about the scheduling of CPA and CDBG grant applications and meeting our planned spring renovation date. Lisa Press will talk to Sandy Dahl Ronan and Bill Sanborn to JJ Bell about this. Russell Hobbs reported that Jim Flynt at Lanesville Community Center would need an written plan to evaluate the match with the goals of LLC before serving as a conduit for funding. We need a fund raising coordinator. Damon will ask Geof Richon for advise on this.

We will be skipping a week due to the Columbus Day holiday. Our next meeting will be at the City Hall Annex on Pond Rd at 2:00 pm on October 17, 2011

The meeting adjourned at 2:51 pm

Damon E Cummings 10/4/2011

Report to the Mayor is appended below:

October 1, 2011

Mayor Carolyn Kirk  
City of Gloucester, Massachusetts

Subject: Interim Report of the Lanes Cove Fish Shack Building Committee

Dear Mayor Kirk,

The committee has held ten meetings since starting on August 1, 2011 climaxing in a public forum at the Lanesville Community Center on September 20, 2011. Since the public at the forum agreed strongly with the conclusions of the committee to date and we have reached the stage where we know what we want to do and how, it seems the appropriate time to update you on our status.

We considered three alternate approaches to remedy the fish shack dissolution. First we could demolish the building and rejoice in the open space. Second we could demolish and remove the building and replace it immediately with a new one. Third we could replace rotten and missing parts piece by piece.

We named these approaches elimination, rebuild, or restore. The first approach, elimination, fell by the wayside. It not only is opposite to the wishes of the community but would be paid for entirely by city funds, since private funding or grants for destruction as opposed to historical preservation are unlikely.

The second approach, rebuild, was not so easily dismissed. The architectural firm of Treehouse Design in the persons of Tim Thurman and Ryan MacArthur, donated their time and expertise to come up with a phased approach to rebuilding the structure. The first stage would be an open platform, the second would be a covered pavilion, and the third would be a final shack. Thus construction by volunteers could be spread out over time, perhaps several seasons. The drawbacks here were that permitting could be a serious problem since no C91 license exists for the property and wetlands constraints would also apply if construction were delayed. It would not be a historical preservation and any historical preservation funding would be questionable.

In the end the committee, and the public at the forum, favored the piece by piece repair and restoration of what we have. We would not need a C 91 license according to DEP if we repair in the same footprint. Fund raising could be far simpler and more promising. We are therefore proceeding along that path.

Now the issues are timing and funding. We wish to start work in the spring, after further stabilization of the building by the DPW, to get the structure through the winter. We have

assurances that local volunteer labor and donated materials will be available to perform the major tasks. We would use rough sawn lumber from local mills. However we are of the opinion that a licensed contractor should supervise the work. Possibly as well a professional building mover company will be needed to lift the structure for repair of foundations and sills. We are in the process of looking into these issues and their costs.

We are looking for a mechanism, for example partnership with an existing 501 c3 corporation, to raise tax exempt donations. We are also considering grant applications, for example to CPA and / or CDBG or Seaport Council funding. Your help and support in obtaining funding would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you for the opportunity to work on this interesting project.

Yours truly,

Lanes Cove Fish Shack Building Committee

Jim Hafey, Chairman

Damon Cummings, Secretary