

D R A F T

Swift House Sub-Committee
Special Meeting, via Zoom

Tuesday, June 2, 2020
1:00 pm

Present: Zanne Charity, Chris Garrity, Marge Smith
Also present: Joyce Kearns

The meeting was called to order at 1:02pm.

Election of Sub-Committee Chair:

Chris Garrity made a motion to elect Zanne Charity as Task Force Chair. The motion was seconded by Marge Smith and the motion carried.

New Business:

Sub-Committee Charge – A discussion took place regarding the objectives and responsibilities of the Swift House Task Force (SHTF), particularly in view of the fact that the Board of Finance voted to increase available funding for Swift House repairs beyond pest removal and that those repairs must be completed within the 2020-21 fiscal year.

Zanne Charity made suggestions for a proposed charge based upon her recommendations for the scope of work of a Sub-Committee or Task Force in her letter to the Board of Selectmen, read at their Regular Meeting on 5/12/20. At that time the Board of Selectmen appointed the Sub-Committee's members but did not define the specifics of its charge to clarify its objectives and responsibilities. It was decided that Zanne would circulate the proposed charge wording to members of the Task Force for consideration in advance of the next meeting in order to facilitate meeting discussion on the topic and a vote as to whether to forward the proposed charge to the Board of Selectman for mutual clarification and approval.

Status of American Bio-Tech Wildlife Services Work - Zanne Charity reported that American Bio-Tech's work is proceeding according to plan. Bat valves are in place and bats gone. Complete sealing of bat access will take place following cleaning and inspection of attic space. Squirrel access holes have also been soft plugged with traps ready for placement tomorrow, June 3.

Prior Swift House Work - Joyce Kearns provided preliminary information to Task Force members via email from First Selectmen's Office files regarding work that was recommended at the time the Town of Kent applied for a Steap Grant for Swift House repairs during the administration of Ruth Epstein. She will continue to search for additional grant documents to inform us as to what work was completed and paid for at that time, and what recommended work was postponed for later consideration.

Future Working Plan - Following discussion, it was agreed by Task Force members that information would be gathered concurrently relating to the objectives of (a) identifying and prioritizing needed Swift House repairs, maintenance, and improvements, and (b) deliberating on a proposed recommendation for future use(s) of Swift House.

To advance objective (a) it was decided that Task Force members would reach out to a few select local contractors with restoration experience to request their professional evaluation of the building's needs, and also (b) simultaneously work on ways to assess interest and input as to how Swift House should be used and what improvements would make it more useful and attractive for community use.

Next Meeting – The next meeting will take place at 10:30am on Monday, June 15 with members of the Task Force at Swift House for a walk-through (with permission of the First Selectman), and the public invited to attend via a hot spot Zoom link.

Adjournment - The meeting was adjourned at 2:35 pm.