



Pierce Property Committee Minutes from 12/1/2020

Present

Terry Green(Chair), Gina Halsted (FinCom Liaison), Victoria Otis(Pierce House Manager), Jennifer Glass(selectman), Peter Braun, Margi Byrnes, Anne Crosby, Barbara Peskin, Deborah Wallace(FinCom Liason), Pam Weismann.

Meeting called to order at 4:06 pm by Terry Green.

The minutes from the November meeting were corrected and approved.

Barbara Peskin and Peter Braun new members of the Pierce House have not yet been approved by the Selectmen thus can't vote yet on any measures put forward at today's meeting.

Discussions

The budget was reviewed by Victoria, first item discussed was to explain line item 22 (donations), which is income coming from the Elsie Pierce Fund Trust.

Total revenue for the year as of 11/2 was \$70,623.73. Expenses so far this year have been \$75,398.12. The Balance coming forward is \$155,179.28, which \$60,000 is the finance directive from the town which remains in our account and is not to be spent. Which leaves us with a working balance of \$90,393.89.

Victoria went over the bookings for the future. She had 43 inquiries this month.

A discussion was held on the future of the micro weddings at the house. Victoria asked the committee to consider raising the price of a micro wedding to \$2300 for 5 hours and \$2600 for 8 hours. No decision was made, but the committee felt reluctant to offer a micro wedding on a Saturday in 2022 when we can book a full price wedding.

A discussed was held on whether a policy was put into place limiting the number of events that could be held at the House on any given weekend. Terry said she could not find in writing any policy that stated that only two event could be held on a weekend. However some members thought it had been offered to the neighbor last year when we were going through sound issues. Terry said considering our lack of income we need to book as many events as possible. A future discussion of this will be put on the agenda for January so that

going forward we will have a written policy on the issue. Peter suggested we include the neighbors in on the discussion, but Pam felt we as a committee should have the discussion before we open it to the neighbors. Victoria felt it is more about the noise level than the number of events per weekend. Jennifer Glass suggested that Victoria create a financial model to look at what income could be generated by two events a weekend compared to three. These events would be considered big events with music. Victoria will try to work up a model for our next meeting, with maybe a open public meeting in February.

Terry asked for help to write the Annual Report for Town Meeting in March, Margi and Pam offered to help her. Victoria will get the information needed for the report to Terry, which includes how many town events and paid events were held at the house this year. Because of Covid there were many more free town events held outside under the tent. The COA and Recreation Departments both used the tent weekly for classes.

There will be no First Day Party at the house this year due to Covid. Victoria will get the news out to the town through the Squirrel and Lincoln Talk.

Victoria will have to approach the historical committee to get approved to have a hand railing installed on the back steps of the house. Terry will contact Michael Haines to see if he can install it after we get approval.

A discussion was held about the conflict of use of the tent for free town events versus paid events and it was decided that no COA or Recreation classes will be scheduled in the tent on Fridays. It was still up in the air as to how best handle the problem of supplies for the down stairs bathroom and who pays for the supplies.

Victoria suggested that we remove from the house's contract the fee of \$250 for use of the kitchen. This fee was put into the contract by the previous manager. Victoria said it is in the contract but no one is collecting it and it is not reflected in our budget. Victoria feels the use of the kitchen should come with the price of the house rental and there should not be an extra fee. The committee decided to hold off on this discussion until our January meeting after Victoria looks into the financial implications.

-meeting adjourned at 5:20pm

"Our mission is to be stewards of this historic property so that residents of Lincoln, neighbors, and guests may continue to use the Pierce House as a venue to gather and celebrate, in keeping with the spirit of John H. Pierce's gift to the Town of Lincoln." (approved March 20, 2016)