

Approved 2/2/22
TOWN OF WEST TISBURY
Howes House Study Committee
December 9, 2021 4:30 pm
Virtual meeting

Present: Cynthia Mitchell, Skipper Manter Jen Rand, James Klingensmith, Bethany Hammond, Kathy Logue, John Keenan, Antonia Kenny, Jerry Thiboudot

As this was the first meeting the group discussed their various concerns about the current condition/uses of the building and what the next steps would be to move a project forward. Skipper said the building needs updates he noted the third floor should be brought back into use and that he would prefer to maintain the current footprint with the possible exception of added space for a proper elevator.

Kathy noted that the offices are too small, the library is small, dark and not terribly functional, the town needs more meeting space for small meetings. She added there was no available space for private meetings or meetings with various practitioners that come to the center.

James said the roofline is a hodgepodge; he said the building should be “decapitated” and a new roofline, perhaps a mansard be put in its place.

John K said the first thing they need to do is a structural analysis of the building and an analysis of the code compliance issues. He said that the height of the second floor varies between the old section and the 1992 addition, so that would need to be addressed. He said the interior of the building could probably be reconfigured in any manner the town wished. The town would need to provide information about how the building was to be used. He noted the best place for any addition would be on the South side of the building.

Kathy asked if K&K could develop a questionnaire for the town to respond to regarding building use etc. John said yes, he would get it to Jen who would get it to the committee and the staff at the COA. She also noted that the Howes House does not have a back up generator in the event of a power outage, this will need to be addressed.

Skipper noted issues with the egress from the bottom floor. He also suggested perhaps a couple staff offices could be moved to the third floor. Kathy said that could be problematic on days when the outreach staff are working out of the office.

Jen reminded K&K that the town owns the Field Gallery next door and it is all now one big lot so there are no set back issues on that side of the building.

The Committee will meet again on the 28th.

Respectfully Submitted by Jennifer Rand, Town Administrator