

Castine Historical Society
Buildings & Grounds Committee
Annual Report
26 July 2020

Over the past year, due to COVID-19 concerns, the Buildings & Grounds Committee has not been particularly active. Grindle House and Abbott School have not required much attention, but we will need to address normal maintenance issues in the coming months.

Budget:

Our Annual Budget for B&G was decreased significantly, taking into consideration current fiscal concerns, as well as the fact that in the prior year exterior painting work was successfully completed.

2019 Budget

\$70,600 Budgeted
\$88,539 Spent *

2020 Budget

\$56,600 Budgeted
\$19,372 Spent (January – June)

* *Major expenditure (\$47,585) in 2019 was Abbott School exterior painting project*

During the coming year, if there are available funds, we hope to be able to complete a small number of needed improvements, as well as pre-planning for possible future uses of Abbott School.

These include:

- Planning and physical improvements at the rear entry to Grindle House
- Furniture (table) for the Reading Room at Grindle (this will allow researchers to work alongside and under the guidance of the CHS Curator).
- Emergency exit signage at Abbott School
- Preliminary assessment and pre-planning of Abbott School improvements (assuming that at some future point the second floor may be developed).
- Normal maintenance and minor projects (memorial bricks, weed control, signage, door repair, etc. that I (MWP) have been able to take care of on an as needed basis.

Planning:

Our B&G Committee is comprised of long-time CHS members who are a fabulous source of knowledge and history regarding the properties, as well as newer members well-versed and experienced in the architectural design and construction fields. It is my desire as Chair of the Committee to exploit and encourage engagement in preliminary planning for long term/capital improvements.

For instance, we should start planning for the Abbott School project infrastructure needs (*not* programming). We know that architectural (HDCP) access and egress must be accomplished, and that this one element will form a major component of anything we attempt to do on the upper floor(s) of the facility. We should be able to create a couple of possible plans for stair/elevator solutions; these will provide the basis for estimates that we can obtain at no cost. Likewise, we will need to improve the HVAC systems, and we can make preliminary plans for design loads, equipment, etc. without any expenditure.

McKee Patterson and I can spearhead this endeavor; we both spent decades in design and construction management, and can prepare guiding documents to assist the Board and other parties in the planned future developments

Programming:

Earlier this year, The B&G and Exhibits Committees formally engaged Julia Gray of *Riverside Museum Solutions*. We met as a group in March (just prior to COVID-19 shutdown), outlined the goals of CHS in regard to her work as facilitator for community outreach and communications. We received a report from her regarding results of our kick-off meeting, and we considered a working schedule, among other things.

Since then, the entire program has been put on hold, and the restart of this effort will be rescheduled once there is more clarity in the future as we all struggle through the COVID pandemic.

Respectfully submitted,

Marc Pelletier, Chair