

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE JAFFREY HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNOUNCED

Dear JHS member,

September 25, 2015

YOUR OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS have decided to call a special meeting of the membership so that we can present the decision we made on September 10th concerning the location of the proposed Hearse House. Some members have requested that we do this. We will be asking at the meeting for a show of support for the decision that we have made.¹

Nineteen of the total of 24 Officers, Directors and Past Presidents met on September 10th on the Common and intensively discussed the project including in their consideration the views expressed at the 'Charrette' held at the same location on August 23rd.

Four sites were considered, the pros & cons of each noted and discussed, and opinions solicited. The sites were:—

- 1) The site originally proposed just outside the south wall of the Old Burying Ground. (As a consequence of the 'Charrette,' the tubular mock-up was moved 15 feet to the west. The two wood stakes indicate the earlier front corners.)
- 2) The site on the immediate south side of Blackberry Lane as the road starts downhill, now indicated by red survey tape. (This site has been suggested on several occasions as an acceptable alternative.)
- 3) A site immediately south and in line with the Little Red Schoolhouse. (This location was suggested by several people at the 'Charrette'.)
- 4) A site immediately west and behind the Little Red Schoolhouse. (This location was suggested by at least one person at the 'Charrette'.)

OPTIONS 3 and 4 would require minimal site preparation as in both instances the land is reasonably level and clear of trees. In both cases the structure would be visible from Route 124 and, in the case of Option 3, from most areas of the Common.

OPTION 2 would involve the most site preparation including tree & stump removal and grading. Compared to the other options, the structure would not be visible from Route 124 and from most portions of the Common. But it would be in a location that would probably never have been originally considered.

As discussion continued it became clear that **OPTION 1** was the one most favored. **OPTIONS 3 and 4** had no support whatsoever. Although **OPTION 2** would be less visible from various points around the Common, site preparation issues caused no one to choose this option as preferable to others. **OPTION 1**, especially now that the siting has been adjusted 15 feet further west, was thought by nearly all as the most logical and historically appropriate location. In the end a vote by show of hands was taken and Option 1 was chosen as the preferred proposal, the decision being that the Society should proceed to the next step in the process which will be an application to the Historic District Commission.

The vote was 17 in favor of Option 1 and two abstentions. (One of the abstaining Directors favored only the original location immediately west of the Horsesheds.)

At this special meeting of the Society, the OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS will be ready to answer any questions and attempt to address any concerns, following which they will ask for a show of support for their decision from the Society membership.

(For substantial information about the Hearse House project, go to <http://www.rs41.org/jhs/hearse.htm>)

Rob Stephenson, *President*

¹ We ask that only members who are up-to-date on dues as of September 1st vote on any motion that may be presented at this special meeting. Also, in the case of family memberships, no more than two votes will be accepted from a family. As no specific motion is being presented in this call, no proxy votes will be accepted.



Nineteen Officers and Directors of the Society met on the Common on September 10, 2015, and decided.