

Hearse House Timeline

January 7, 2016. JHS seeks project approval from the Jaffrey Historic District Commission. Public hearing scheduled for Thursday, January 7, 2016.

January 6, 2016. Rob Stephenson meets with Lawrence Pimental, Principal of Conant High School, and Chris Moore, Building Trades teacher to discuss the Building Trades class taking on the hearse house as a future project.

December 15, 2015. JHS submits application for project approval to the Jaffrey Historic District Commission.

October 8, 2015. Special meeting of the JHS membership to support the decision of the Officers and Directors made on September 10, 2015. The following resolution was presented and approved by those members present: *“Be it resolved that the members of the Jaffrey Historical Society support the decision made by the Officers & Directors of the Society on September 10, 2015, namely that the location designated by the tube framing mockup adjacent to the Old Burying Ground will be approved as the location of the proposed Hearse House.”*

September 10, 2015. The Board met on site, inspected 4 options, and voted: *“A motion was then made and seconded to approve the location designated by the tubular frame mockup and located adjacent to the cemetery.* This was deemed the most appropriate of locations due to the historical accuracy of where a Hearse House would have been located...The president asked for a hand held up vote by the attendees on the motion before them, the count showed 17 votes for the motion with 2 abstaining.”

August 23, 2015. Charrette held on site. Approximately 50 people attended. Four sites were discussed: 1) Original; 2) Proposed; 3) Beside or behind Little Red Schoolhouse; 4) South side of Blackberry Lane adjacent to the Little Red Schoolhouse.

March 27, 2015. Jenkins Woodwrights paid \$864, 15% of its low-end estimate for timber framing services as outlined in its letter of November 12, 2014 (\$5,760). This payment was in part made to insure that Scott Jenkins participated in Karen Fabianski’s Conval class relative to timber framing.

February 5, 2015. Public hearing scheduled before the Jaffrey Historic District Commission. The Society pulls the application to allow more time to explore options.

January 29, 2015. JHS Special Board meeting. Motion: *“Dave Kemp moved, Betty Royce seconded a motion that the Board of Directors declares its support for its Hearse House project, but is withdrawing its current application to the Historic District Commission with the understanding that we will submit a revised application at a later time.”*

January 25, 2015. Presentation to the JHS membership and others on the project at the Civic Center at 3pm. Perhaps 40 or so present.

January 12, 2015. Rob Stephenson appears before the Board of Selectmen to update the Selectmen on the Hearse House project.

December 5, 2014. Rob Stephenson, Peggy Ueda and Susan Leach attend student presentations on Hearse House in Karen Fabianski's class at Conval High School.

December 8, 2014. Bill Driscoll, Dave Kemp, Joe Manning and Rob Stephenson met with Scott Jankins of Frankestown to talk about timber framing services for the Hearse House.

December 4, 2014. Rob appears before Jaffrey Historic District Commission and give update on Hearse House project.

November 12, 2014. Letter from Jenkins Woodwrights outlining its proposed services relating to framing the Hearse House. "The cost for the frame materials, cutting of the frame and raising would be between \$5,760 and \$6,400."

October 9, 2014. Rob Stephenson meets with Steve Given to discuss project. He would be happy to help out.

September 11, 2014. Rob Stephenson makes presentation on Hearse House to students in Karen Fabianski's class at Conval High School.

July 10, 2014. *"That the Jaffrey Historical Society—when and if necessary and only by an affirmative vote of the Officers and Directors—expend from the accrued past income of the Jaffrey Historical Society Endowment up to \$5,000 on expenses related to the development of a Hearse House to accommodate and display the two historic hearses in the possession of the Society."*

May 12, 2014: Rob Stephenson appears before the Board of Selectmen to update the Selectmen on the Hearse House project.

March 15, 2014. Jim DePaul and Andrew Webber contacted by mail inviting them to give cost estimates for building the Hearse House.

March 13, 2014. "In regard to the Hearse House motion passed at the last meeting, Rob presented three options. He has met with Tim Foley with regard to the construction of the shed. There are several options, but Tim gave him a preliminary estimate of \$25,000, not including the foundation. There are three choices for the type of foundation the shed might have. Roughly speaking this project will cost in the neighborhood of \$30,000. Bill Driscoll said that the committee will get another estimate or two, but he was seeking re-affirmation of going forward with this project from the board. The committee will further investigate costs and possible contractors and possible sources of funding for the May

meeting. Some discussion followed in which the possibility of using the existing hearse house was tossed about, but ultimately dismissed because of its condition and the difficulty of moving it successfully. Rob presented more photos showing optional sites.

Ken Duquette moved and Dan Shattuck seconded a motion that the Directors obtain more estimates for the project and explore possible sources of funding. All in favor.

March 8, 2014. Cost estimate received from Tim Foley, excluding excavation and concrete work, \$25,000.

January 9, 2014. Vote of the Board. ***“That the Directors accept in principle re-locating the former Old Burying Ground Hearse House or building a replica of same at the Old Burying Ground to house the two historic hearses in the Society's possession, siting it either outside the wall to the south or in its original location at the end of the Horsesheds; and that ways and means of accomplishing this be investigated and pursued; and that a modest expenditure of funds be authorized to cover any costs incurred in such investigation; the President and Hearse Committee reporting back to the Directors at the next meeting, March 13, 2014.”***

January 15, 2014 ?: Rob Stephenson, Bill Driscoll and Joe Manning meet at SAU47 with Jim McNeil and Larry Pimental to discuss the possibility of the Hearse House being built by the Building Trades students at Conval.

November 14, 2013. Vote of the Board. ***“We, as Directors of the JHS, support the notion of conserving and displaying the two hearses that we currently possess.”***

From the Minutes:

Hearse Committee. Bill has scoured the Town reports going back to the beginning. The first mention of a wheeled and sleigh hearse was in 1802. A Hearse House near the Horsesheds was mentioned in 1804. In 1904 the Hearse House was moved and the ‘old house’ was sold for \$15. In 1906 the ‘runner hearse’ was sold for \$6. In 1912 there was a vote to purchase a new hearse. Perhaps this is our current wheeled hearse.

Several options were discussed: • Create a display space at the Horsesheds; (judged not a good idea)

- Maybe Cournoyer would want to store and display; he doesn’t seem too eager
- Build a two-bay Hearse House in Jaffrey Center outside of stonewall by the Horsesheds; aesthetically in tune with surroundings; *or* build on the other side of Blackberry Lane. Directors favored the former idea as a recommendation. Bill will do a write-up for the January newsletter

After discussion, Joe made the following motion. Helen Coll seconded:

“We, as Directors of the JHS, support the notion of conserving and displaying the two hearses that we currently possess.” Motion unanimously passed.

September 12, 2013. From Minutes of September 12th. **“Cemetery (Rob Stephenson).** The wheeled hearse has been transferred to the Belletete’s Warehouse for temporary storage. The Society is hoping to find a permanent storage place for both hearses, one that will allow for display. In pursuit of this goal, **a new committee has been created. Mark Cournoyer will head this group, Bill Driscoll and Joe Manning will help out in this endeavor.”**

September 3, 2013. Wheeled hearse moved from Cournoyer Funeral Home to the Belletete Squantum warehouse.

1966. *“To see if the Town will vote to turn over to the Jaffrey Historical Society ownership of the two hearses now owned by the Town; said hearses to be retained by the Jaffrey Historical Society and to be displayed in conjunction with other articles of historical interest now in their possession, or act in any way relating thereto.”*

1967 Town Report, Abstract of Town Meeting 1966, Article 27. “The motion **CARRIED.**”

1804. “A hearse was not used by the town till 1802. Hearse house built, 1804.” Source: Cutter History, p. 175.
