Minutes of Committee for Building New Meetinghouse, 1802-1804

First Church in Roxbury (Roxbury, Boston, Mass.). Records, 1630-1956. Minutes of committee for building new meetinghouse, 1802-1804. bMS 626/3 (1), Andover-Harvard Theological Library, Harvard Divinity School.

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Minutes of Record of the Transactions & oings in the Committee for building the new meetinghouse in the First parish in Roxbury – by Nath. Ruggles clerk & said committee
At a meeting of the committee for building the meetinghouse at Mr. Ralph Smiths – Aug. 9th, 1802
Present Wm. Ralph Smith, Joseph Ruggles Esq. Capt. Joseph Williams, W. William Blaney & Nath. Ruggles Esq. –
Chose Nath. Ruggles, Esq. their Clerk –

The committee were unanimous in the opinion that was/is best to make contracts for, and to purchase timber as soon as it can be done advantageously ---
And that it is best to appoint an agent of the comm. Who shall make it a particular business, by & with the advice & consent of the rest of the Comm. To purchase and advertise for contracts accordingly –
They then appointed Mr. William Blaney their agent – It was the sense of the com. That the Clerk advertise immediately for materials & labour for the meeting house – and agreed on the following advertisement to be published in three different newspapers

Vist. Wanted a quantity of Timber & Joists of suitable dimensions for a meetinghouse, for which cash will be paid on delivery, any person disposed to contract for the same, may know the dimensions & other particulars, by applying to William Blaney in Roxbury –
And proposal in writing will be received at the office of Nath. Ruggles in said Roxbury from this time until the first day of November next, for a contract to frame, erect, cover & compliatly finish on or before the 1st of Oct. 1803, a meeting house in east parish in said Roxbury agreeably to a plan, accepted by the parish, to be seen at the house of William Blaney aforesaid –

It is expected that the proposals will include the furnishing all the nails, ??? & ???? for the Building.

And security will be required for the faithful performance,
Roxbury 10th August, 1802

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(struck out) Copy of advertisement for Hammered Stone published in Chronicle, Centennial & Palladium – vist ???
Oct. 26 1802 entered into contract with James Drummond of Bargan for dimension Timber

Seq. 7
First of November 1802 the committee for building met at the office of Nathaniel Ruggles & examined the proposals for building the meeting house as given in, and the proposals by Elias Man, Asher Benjamin, & Elias Dunbar bring the lowest viz $6897, the committee concluded to contract with them they giving bonds for the performance –
Nov. 29th 1802, the Comm. Contracted with the aforesaid proponents & exchanged writings –
De. 29th. Advertise for hammered stone, published in the Chronicle, Centinel & Paladium viz.

Wanted – 640 feet in length of hammered stone, suitable for the foundation of a large building, also 165 in length of ditto suitable for steps. 17 inches wide & 8 inches thick – also 96 feet in length of ditto 2 feet wide & 8 inches thick to be delivered at Roxbury on or before the 15 day of April next – Any person disposed to contract for supplying the same will please to send their proposals sealed to the office of Nath. Ruggles in Roxbury on or before the tenth day of January next—Cash will be paid on delivery
Rox. Dec 22, 1802.

Seq. 8
Jan 10, 1803 the Committee agreed with Aaron Pomroy to make the blind hinges 71/2 inches plate strong in proportion, swivel buttons hook & staples -- @ 6/3 per sett to have them compliated on or before 1st Sept. next – to say

2 pairs of Hinges
2 Swivel Buttons
1 hook
2 staples – meaning sufficient to hang both the blinds of one window

Jan. 12th 1802 agreed with Col. Benjamin Hayden of Braintree for the stone of the meeting house for the underpinning stones 41 ½ cents p foot & for the step stones 52 cents per foot – the underpinning one foot face delivered on the meetinghouse hill & the underpinning stones to have a smooth & even surface & large bed

Seq. 10

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Sunday 18th Jan. 1803 The committee for building met at the counting room of Nath. Ruggles – and agree that Mr. William Blaney purchase or make contracts for when it shall be prudent & necessary for Glass, xxxx lead[?], weights for windows, paint pew hinges, joists for braces
And assigned Thursday next to meet on the hill at 2 o'clock p.m. for the purpose of assigning the spot for the new meeting house.

Friday 11th Feb. 1803 The committee met on the meeting house hill and agree with Hinley & Bacon to get out the stone by the house shed, and even it off as marked out by the committee the stones xxxxx to the parish-- & all for the sum of eighty dollars, and the undertakers to deduct from that sum ten dollars if when finished they find they can afford it – The committee to be at no expense of any kind further –

Tuesday 15th February 1803 The Committee met & agreed with Elias Man Asher Benjamin & Elias Dunbar contractors to remove the horse shed they to turn out all their hands & move the shed to a temporary spot & when a spot is fixed upon for the it to stand they to move it to the said spot, the committee to turn out as many hands to help remove it (note in between lines reads: as the undertakers have to work in removing) – They the contractors to have the use of it as as hop to store & work in until the new meeting house is so far advanced as to answer those purposes - & they to have & fix the shed as it now is when they have so go the meeting house advanced for this use.

Seq. 10
Monday Mar. 21st 1803. The Committee for building a new meetinghouse met on the meeting house hill to consult with Deacon Pierce who was present, respecting removing the old Meeting house --- they agreed to present?? the matter to the Parish at their next meeting –
April 12th the Committee for building met for arranging sundry matters about meeting house hill
Apr. 26 the comt. For building met to fix upon the spot & position of the new meeting house & staked out the ground for further consideration
Apr. 27 again met for further consideration on the spot & position
Apr. 29 again met on the meetinghouse hill, and altered the position as first staked and carrying the East end a little to the Southern end, and gave direction for laying the foundation etc. etc.
May 4 the com. For building met & gave directions about the work

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May 28 the committee for building met and agreed to advertise in the parish for the blacksmith to bring in proposals for doing the iron work – the advertisements as follows –

The committee for building, the meetinghouse, in the First Parish in Roxbury wishing to contract for all …

Sequence 11
The iron work requisite for said meeting house