



P.O. Box 401
Bethany Beach, DE 19930

January 14, 2016

RE: Acceptance and Possible Uses of the Dinker House

Dear Mayor Gordon and Council Members,

We note that at its January 15 meeting the Council will consider whether to accept the tendered gift of the Dinker house and if so, the Town Manager's recommendations concerning where to relocate the building.

Consistent with its long-standing commitment to the preservation and recordation of the history of Bethany Beach, BBLA strongly supports acceptance of the proffered gift. With careful planning and attentive maintenance, this historic edifice, serving as a museum, will be a welcome addition to our community from which future generations will be able to learn about our roots. However, because we have no clear consensus among us on the most appropriate site for relocating the Dinker House, BBLA has taken no position on that issue.

In the event the Council elects to accept the gift, and regardless of the chosen site, we ask the Council and the Town Manager to explore the feasibility of using one room of the relocated building as a meeting room available for use by local civic associations such as BBLA.

For many years, civic organizations such as BBLA were able to hold meetings on Saturdays in the Town Hall, either in the main meeting room or the small conference room on the second floor ; subject , of course, to the Town not needing these spaces for other purposes. However, roughly six months ago BBLA and presumably other civic organizations were advised that due to insurance considerations these spaces would no longer be available for Saturday meetings held by outside civic organizations.

As a result, demand for meeting space on reasonable terms now exceeds the supply. The hotel and the Church have meeting rooms that are only available at considerable expense. The Library has two sizable rooms (that can be converted into one very large room) but demand for these spaces is high. When the Library earlier this month began accepting reservations for these spaces for 2016, a long line formed well before the Library opened of people seeking to make reservations. On several occasions BBLA has found that space at the Library was unavailable.

BBLA recognizes that the proffered gift of the Dinker House is and ought to be used primarily as a museum. However, devoting one room to a meeting room available to local civic associations would not seem to be incompatible with that primary purpose.

Very truly yours,
/s/

Michael Horne,
BBLA President

Cc: Town Manager

