

Topsham Community Center Committee Meeting

April 11, 2022 @ 6:30pm

Attendance in person: Mark Waltz, Lynn Sirois, Leslie Byrne, Steve Kessler, Pam LeDuc, Erika McKenney

Attendance Via Zoom: Mary Kate Appicelli, Jennah Godo. Absent: Rob Beal

1. Review

- Beal noticed a spelling error on previous minutes and that will be corrected
- Acceptance of 3/21/22 minutes
- 5/5/22 is the next select board meeting

2. Membership Update

- Welcome new members Jennah (zoom), Erika, and Lynn!
- Leslie mentioned a potential Woodside member
- Members agreed on the ideal membership to be between seven and nine members
- Members agreed to prospect a few more members through word of mouth

3. Pam and Mark Update on UNH/Clemson/needs assessment

- Bob B. would like to hold off on committing to an agreement until he “gets his feet wet” at Clemson. He should be able to let us know on August 1st and could still be ready as soon as September.
- Mark added:
 - Bob recommends working on stakeholder groups in the meantime
 - He feels Bob is 80% in and Pam seconded that feeling as Bob would really like to work with Topsham.
 - Options for moving forward:
 - 1) Wait until August for Bob to make a decision
 - 2) Create a new RFP- this would likely be much more expensive

4. Mark presented about 501c3s to share information about this option for potential future fundraising should the recommendation be to move forward.

5. Leslie will present to the Select Board an update on our progress at the May 5th meeting.

6. Brainstorm of stakeholders in the community

- The Arts-- Fiber Arts, Robin Brooks, Theatre, Dance (Joanne Patterson), Art Van, MSMT, Merrymeeting Community Band
- Athletics--Martial Arts, Merrymeeting Soccer, Six Rivers Sports (Dome), NEMBA Mountain Bike, CREA- Caroline
- Older Community--Elm Street Assisted Living, The Highlands, Highland Green, Veterans, Ruth Lyons, library

- Teens--Teens! Brunswick Teen Center, Stacy Frizzle, Jordan Cordone, Midcoast Youth Center, Jamie Dorn, MTA Student Council, PTO's, Local Therapists, and Guidance Counselors.
- Childcare--need a list from the town including homeschoolers, State Website of licensed daycares. Rumpus Room, Mariah- library, Scouts, Local Daycare- Building Blocks, Stepping Stones, A Place To Grow, Bright Start, Pjebscot Day School.
- School Library--Mariah Sewall
- Other -- Merrymeeting Soccer, Boy Scouts, Westrum, Cathance River, Caterers
- Businesses wanting to potentially rent space- real estate, Head Start for training, parenting groups, public health groups, Youth Mental Health, Merrymeeting Adult Ed- yoga, TaiChi, etc.
- Disabilities- Independence Assoc.- Allie Burco, Maine Adaptive Skiing, Village Clubhouse, Art Van-Spindleworks, Rusty Wilkins, Steve Kessler.

7. Brainstorm: Social Media

- Create web or other presence: ideas such as logo, name, etc. that utilize the mission
- Think of ways to communicate progress with the Topsham community--what works best?

8. Group Discussion

- Pam-Boards and Committee pages have been updated on Town website
- Leslie- A document has been created that describes the committee as well as actions to date and will continue to be worked on. MaryKate will look at it next.

9. Next Steps

- Present update to Select Board
- Continue to expand stakeholder list for focus groups
 - Steve to reach out to Six Rivers and schedule a sit-down?*
- New logo, name, etc. for social media presence
- Consider changes to the Mission Statement
- Next Meetings May 11 & likely June 8 from 6:30-8