

Topsham Community Center Committee
Minutes – August 29, 2023

The mission of the Community Center Committee is to understand the desires and needs of the Topsham Community to identify accessible, affordable, sustainable recreational solutions that will serve the multi-generational community and social connections among Topsham citizens.

1. Call to order. Time: 5:15 p.m.

Members present: Leslie Byrne, Ann Callahan, Steve Kessler, Erika McKenney, and Lynn Sirois.

Staff present: Pam LeDuc

Members absent: Ericka McKenney

Staff absent: Mark Waltz

Guests present (if any):

2. Summary of Focus Group Suggestions and Questions

The members listed stakeholders for focus groups at this meeting. Members will draft questions and submit them at the September 18, 2023 meeting.

Focus groups will be scheduled for Youth, Seniors, Families, Arts, Disabilities, Veterans, and Hospital (including Mental Health).

Youth: guidance counselors, Head Start, PTOs from elementary schools, Day care centers - Bright Star and Penobscot Day School, HS Student Council, Youth Librarian, Scouts (Jim B), Westrum House, CREA (Cathance River Education Alliance Ecology Center), Brunswick-Topsham Land Trust, and Steve's soccer team.

Families: sporting events, movie theatre (possibly rent Smitty's?)

Disabilities: TBD

Arts: Fiber Arts, more TBD

Hospital: Community Health Partnerships, Access, (include Mental Health) (Melissa Fochesato)

Veterans: TBD

Possible locations: Transfer station, at the High School on Election Day.

Consideration: Topsham may not need a community center building but more paid staff to run programs. Keep options open.

3. Pam LeDuc reports on the Information Officer's decision on storing docs on a Google drive.

Documents may be stored on a Google Drive with the understanding that any documents are available to the public upon request.

4. Harriman Progress Report and Next Steps

Harriman hired a consultant Brian Robertson from Market Decisions to assist us with Focus groups. He has experience with surveys and has been forwarded the TCCC first survey for review. He will assist with gathering public opinion distinguishing needs vs. wants. The committee wants to focus on needs of the community.

5. Action Steps: Members should be drafting survey questions for the September 18, 2023 meeting.

6. Meeting adjourned. Time 5:40.

Parking Lot:

- Membership – vacant position on the TCCC.