

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: 6:02 p.m.

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

Staff present: Pam LeDuc and Mark Waltz.

Members absent:

Guests present (if any): Will Gatchell, Tom Emery, and Mark Lee from Harriman.

2. Any changes to this agenda?

Update Leslie/Steve June 29th Meeting

Resignation of Roger Nadeau. He is no longer able to attend meetings.

3. Review minutes from the June 5, 2023 Meeting

Ericka change item 5 last "will be sent to members"

4. Harriman Progress Report and Next Steps

Harriman's Agenda: Review of Use Analysis, Committee Feedback, Next step: Partnership Opportunities

- a. **Use Analysis** - Harriman provided a needs assessment spreadsheet of the current facilities, programs, capacity and schedule availability. Assess the current facilities:

Orange flagged areas represent challenges. Softball and baseball crunch exists (Pam added Lacrosse). Pam gave a description of the fields we have and the number of teams. Harriman will add column(s) for Lacrosse.

Indoor facility needs in the wintertime should be addressed. All the gyms are being maxed out. The current gyms do not support the current activities. A basketball court and some fields are recommended.

Facility summary was listed by activity and location where the activities take place. Showing demand for each space. Circles represent usage.

An overview of both the Mt. Ararat Middle school and Elementary schools was addressed.

- b. **Sample Site Plan** - A site plan was provided from Wakefield, NH as an example of a similar plan we would need. Not only a building is required but land and parking needs to be included as well. That same facility can be used for community events, camps, etc. The example was a 19-

20,000 square foot space. The estimated cost 9-10 Million dollars for example itself for building and site costs. This cost did not including any fields.

- c. **Addressing Programs** - Pam said we need to address the program side, not just the athletic side. The program side does not have adequate staffing availability for non-athletic programs. Pam listed the number of staff by the Town of Topsham. Two full time and one part-time staff. With more staff we could do Senior Programs, trips, etc. More support staff is needed to expand the community athletics and programs. The leagues run themselves. More community events may be desired. Steve suggested we look at community events we are not currently doing. He also suggested we take away all elementary school use since they are not really usable for athletics. Older elementary students are permitted to use the high school. Pam said we haven't discussed a travel program.

Question from Erika: Where does the trickle-down effect events go for dances, special family events, and PTO?

Focus groups hopefully will provide information for us to address what is not happening in the town. Pam reminded us to review the survey for community comment.

Senior activities, pool, after school groups, non-athletic activities for children and adults were discussed.

Mark Lee – We can evaluate existing conditions, Option 1 - without more funds continue what you are doing now. Option 2 - Increase facilities and staffing. (A pool would require significant funding) Increased facilities will have afterschool programs. If you have space, you be able to program additional programs.

Partnership Opportunities - Leslie suggested we poll people from Topsham accessing activities out of the area. Music programs. Perhaps partnerships with other facilities could be accessed.

Erica mentioned about losing business for Topsham with people coming here. Other opportunities were discussed: Splash pad etc. Pickleball lines will be painted on the tennis course. Pickleball is only available when school is not in session.

Mark Lee suggested we develop costs for various scenarios. What revenue would support these facilities?

Leslie asked how do we move forward. Survey review and focus groups. Lynn wondered if opinions have changed since the survey was prior to 2020.

Will discussed an art room, multiple activities athletic and non-athletic activities.

Pam referenced the documents Harriman provided tonight. If the schools didn't exist the building would cost 10 million dollars. Next, we should look at wants and focus groups. The current relationships between the rec dept and schools. Tom asked if the agreement was in writing. No, not formal.

Next steps: Meet with smaller groups first. Steve, wants into Scenario 2 see how much the Topsham gave Pam \$100,000 what could we offer.

Harrison will suggest focus groups. Harriman and the TCCC will draft focus group questions. A sample question: Do you envision yourself retiring in Topsham?

Leslie talked about Merry Meeting Adult Education and the programs they offer. Within the school budget. Topsham, Brunswick and Wiscasset Middle High School and SAD 1, SAD 75 funded through the school budget.

Will said the focus group should come before the survey. Pam said we should create a questionnaire/script. Mark Lee said yes, community outreach. Goal is to help your committee facilitate to the conclusion of what we are doing.

5. Google Docs report by Erika McKenney. Formerly stored documents were attached to Mary Kate's personal account. Erika asked if the town had a Google email address where we could store documents.

Pam will check with the Information Officer if we can hold google docs online.

6. Action Steps

Survey questions should be submitted to Leslie by July 26th.

Pam will contact the information officer about storing docs in Google docs.

7. Meeting adjourned. Time 8:03 p.m.

8. Next TCCC Meeting will be held on August 14th at 6 pm.

9. Pam, Steve, and Leslie will meet with the Harriman team on Thursday July 27th. Craig Seymour will attend.

Parking Lot:

- Membership – vacant position(s) on the TCCC.