

Topsham Community Center Committee
Minutes February 26th, 2024, Time: 5:15 PM

1. Call to order. Time: 5:18pm

Members: Leslie Byrne, Steve Kessler, Lynn Sirois, Alison Cary-Blais, Kathy Hunter, Kim Pride, Heather Rogers

Staff: Pam LeDuc and Mark Waltz

Guests present (if any): *Brian Robertson, Mark Lee, Anne Callahan (observing)*

2. Any changes to this agenda?

- Request to review attendance policy (with so many new committee members) 3 unexcused absences in a row, would be removal from community.
- Adding Mark W -regarding verbal projections (will share when we get to that part of survey)
- Mark W. will also give update land/ water/ conservation items

3. Welcome New Community Members – Kim Pride and Heather Rogers

Round table introductions from everyone in person and remote. Welcome to both Kim and Heather to the TCCC. We are thrilled to have you as part of our committee.

4. Discussion of Community Co Chair Position

Leslie bringing to table question of co-chair position. Leslie would like to continue to be a member, without being a co-chair. Quick discussion and community will round back up with voting at the end of the meeting.

5. Discussion of Content of the Survey

- Brian R walked thru the Survey and how it will run.
- Quick group discussion regarding the introduction and does it do enough to highlight why this is different than previous survey. Also, does this sentence sit well with the committee: *“The purpose of the Topsham Community Center Feasibility Survey is to determine if a community center is built, which items are the most important to our town.”*
- Decision was to leave intro but add year when referencing first survey (summer 2022)
- Mark W confirmed for calculations we will use a 20-year bond (that is common previous term).
- Group discussion on if/where to call out that funding of this may not all be bonds/ tax funding. Some could be fundraising or direct contributions. Also, should it be mentioned there could be additional costs for “membership” if the community center is built. As it was called out in Sample Survey question CC04- This specific ask is in reference to the building of a community center – and should focus on development and construction. (Average \$350K value being used, based on what the Bond would be).

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- As far actual QR code and links Pam setting up on Town of Topsham (Brians survey will be added to that link)
- Survey Question CC08 should focus on next steps- got spot to pull back in earlier discussion (working to offset bond costs with fundraising efforts) Adding a spot about – “would you be interested in helping with this effort?”
- Will need to have an option for printed version for those non computer users. Will add address if being mailed back, return address would be town office/ dept of parks and rec.
- Link will be included in April Cryer therefore timeframe will be to complete by **April 30th.**
- Will also be using FB Town, FB Parks/Rec, town email lists, library lists and having postcards available for handout.
- Expectation for responses - About 1000 respondents last time, hoping to get approx. the same this time around.

Next Steps

- Brian to do the update to wording/ and numbers and get a draft to team by Wednesday.
- Also investigate how paper copy will print out.
- Mark W/ Pam to get town image over to Brian.
- Same format but different colors from previous post card used.
- Pam will ensure QR code works, printing postcards and poster for election table.

6. TCCC Plan to distribute the survey

- Election Poll Coverage 8am- 8pm
 - Team created a breakdown of coverage so that at least 2-3 TCCC Members will be at the polls next Tuesday March 5th requesting that input. Also, will have a couple of iPad(s) at the voting stations to ensure those that want to complete immediately will have that option.
- Other ideas- Library volunteered to mail out to their list.
- Kathy/Lynn may set up some date(s) at town Transfer station to hand out postcards.

7. (Added discussion item) – Update on LWC Funds available:

Land/Water/Conservation funds is federal money handed out to towns periodically. Funds are becoming available on this coming calendar cycle. Three options the town has discussed previously – Boat launch (due to changes, less possible option due to sewer district lot), updates to Foreside Rd. Park improvements (sidewalks, and more structured parking) – This option may be completed outside of this process.

The 3rd option is partnering with Six Rivers Youth Sports, regarding an option of building an outside ice/hockey rink. Could be a good opportunity to collaborate and meet one of the asks of the town.

Mark W wanted to ensure this group was aware of other options that are currently being discussed.

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8. **(Added discussion item) – Follow up from last meeting regarding other facilities TCCC could visit:**

- St. John Community Center (in Brunswick)
- Mid Coast Hunger Prevention (Kitchen rental) – option for shared spaces?
- Waterville Community Center (Lower track/ upper track/ dojo/ daycare/ large pool and outdoor water park (Alfond Center)

Will add this as a discussion item for next TCCC meeting to start planning visits.

9. **(Added Discussion Item) – Co-Chair Position:**

Round table discussion regarding preferences of all positions
(committee members interest in the various roles)
Group decision that Lynn Sirois will move to co-chair position.

10. **Review minutes from the February 5th, 2024, Meeting:**

Updated – Top line still showed AGENDA vs. MINUTES
Approved for posting, new copy will be sent to Pam for posting online.

11. **Action Steps:**

Quick review of action steps discussed Survey Discussion (item 5)
Add recurring item to agenda to discuss next meeting date/ time.
Next TCCC meeting will be March 25th @ 5:15PM

12. **Meeting adjourned.** Time: 6:55pm

Parking Lot:

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