

Topsham Community Center Committee

Minutes – May 5, 2025

Special Meeting – Funding Opportunities

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

Staff Present: Pam LeDuc and Mark Waltz

Guests: Kathy, Evan Gleason, Diane (owns apartment building on Foreside Rd)

None of the guests had attended previous focus groups, panels, etc. regarding the community center.

Participants' experience with fundraising:

Lynn shared she has many experiences, primarily through the school system and sports teams, including the WCS playground upgrade

Kathy – experience with the Montessori school and Airforce Spouses Group

Diane – mostly small events, like popcorn for the Scouts

Evan – is on the Board of Directors for multiple non-profit groups. Has experience with a variety of events there, such as the Independence Association 5k and the Bloom Tour in Brunswick. Fundraising also goes hand-in-hand with this professional work.

Brainstorming Session & Questions:

Evan asked about creating a legal entity like “Friends of TCCC” that could return funds if the center didn't get approved.

Pam shared her experience with fundraising for the turf at the high school, stating that the committee was broken down into smaller groups for corporate sponsorships, events/community involvement, and selling bricks. These groups then met regularly to discuss updates. Alison agreed that this is probably the vision for TCCC as we've discussed the different levels of funding. Other possible opportunities including grants and state funding.

A question was asked about using a professional fundraising firm. Evan shared that he can provide an introduction to Ronnie Westman with The Bullmoose Group.

It was also discussed how networking and social media will be critical factors with fundraising and community involvement.

Ideas:

Fundraising ideas shared by the participants included a raffle, selling bricks, and a well-planned major donor campaign, including a larger event with a dinner, auction, raffle, etc.