

Topsham Community Center Committee: December 19, 2019

Approved: February 24, 2020

Notes by Leslie Byrne, edited by Jay Collier

1. Welcome and Introductions

Susan Preece (Director of Topsham Library), Rod, Andrew, Gary, Leslie, Charlene, Pam

2. Mission Statement

Quickly re-worded the mission statement. Andrew will retype it and send it out.

3. Work Plan

Discussion about the Library

- Susan Preece reported that the Library Board of Trustees is working on a long term plan. Items under consideration include space constraints and succession planning. The Library Board is happy that our committee is happening.
- Other thoughts discussed by the committee included the fact the library has shoreland zoning on a portion of the property. Sharing cost and space could be an option since the building is 13K square feet and is on 4 acres of land. Possibilities include adding another building that abuts the meeting room (the Library is on a concrete slab). Location is important. Is that an ok location? A better option may be to sell the library and buy something for both?
- Regarding programs, the Library's summer reading program serves 150-300 kids, including a lot of homeschooling families. The cost of a library card is the budget divided by the number of residents.

Discussion about the needs assessment

- \$15K has been set aside for the committee, and planning for the needs assessment should get going in the next few months, with a kick-off meeting by May and then a survey to the community.
- MSAD 75 needs should be considered. What programs and facilities exist now and what are lacking?
- The process should build a business case for the community center.
- Current work-out businesses and how they may be impacted by a community center should be considered.
- The 2016 Aging in place survey should be reviewed.
- The Library is considering connecting with MSAD 75 for cost-sharing.