

Minutes of Heart & Soul Meeting April 6, 2017

Attendees: Steve Masson (coach), April Lemay, Judith Masson, Dave Sanatamaria, Georgiana Carr, Sue Gosselin, Frankie Sawicki, Andrew Sawicki, Greg Noyes, Christine Cote, Terrie Herr

The meeting opened with story sharing: Notes taken were a recent "Maple Weekend Adventure" experienced during the sugar house open house weekend which was posted on FB, making the circuit of April's Maple as foodies and then went international for more confections and adult beverages; experience at the Tillotson Meeting for grant approval due to the individual's involvement and knowledge of Heart & Soul, our grant went from review to acceptance; excitement about Town Meeting with experiencing more community involvement; parents are advisors to the current 8th grade at CMHS; the town of Canaan has been selected as the home of the Moose Festival for this coming summer with both Friday and Saturday's events occurring in Canaan; the recent Men's Basketball Tournament went extremely well for both the school and area businesses with no negative incidents only positive; seeds have started to be sown for Fletcher Park, including very difficult to cultivate Wave Petunias (5 out of 30 have taken root); participation in the Community Choir which was well attended; K-Kids (a Kiwanis sponsored club) was instituted as an official group and a ceremony took place at CMHS, having the 6th graders "step up" to K-Kids; after a local individual was involved in an accident, contact was made in a time of need and responded by traveling to their location despite the terrible weather and road conditions leaving feeling of a close-knit community; Beecher Falls Volunteer Fire Department (BFVFD) sponsored a dinner honoring their sponsors which included the students at CMHS, each business received a certificate of appreciation; comment was made that all area fire departments (Beecher Falls, Pittsburg, and Colebrook) work as a team; D-Con (Key Club District Convention) recently occurred involving over 800 students and Canaan's students did very well winning multiple awards, a very positive experience; recent experience at the country store in Burke, VT, thinking about that establishment's ambiance for a future CO-OP.

Previous Minutes

- Sue moved to accept; Frankie 2nd; approved

YouTube

- Frankie and Jonah have created a YouTube site; Dianna, Frankie, and Jonah have the information for it; nothing is uploaded at this time

Variety Show

- Saturday, April 8th; 15 people have signed up to perform

Tillotson Learning Community (TLC)

- Their last meeting took place in Coaticook, PQ; a tour was provided exposing individuals to what the town had to offer, what they've done to revitalize their community thus far, and how we can work together with them in our goals.
- The last session was not addressed, so no date/time/place

Tillotson Grant Application

- April had spoken with "Phoebe" and she asked April what she thought of the Heart & Soul grant and group as April is not allowed to vote being a member, but she can provide background. She discussed how when the H&S process was started it was difficult, but we worked through it. This program is a success – small projects with diverse people. The barriers are the next generation taking over this process to replace us. Greg stated this was something that's been asked at

meetings he's attended, how do we bring young people in the town? Greg talked about Jonah and his involvement and one of the members stated he wanted to meet him and talk to him in Montpelier. April then shared at the meeting the positive gains and how they are important for this group to take all successes which brings a larger change. We have the momentum and capability. The meeting went well and the members were receptive. Our grant went from review to immediate approval.

Database Administration

- Karen Conroy, the recently hired superintendent for ENSU met with Steve. She had two ideas to create the database. She would like to attend a meeting to tell us about her background in IT and to get involved with Heart & Soul. Steve will follow up with her tomorrow. She resides in Bloomfield, VT.

Report on Town Meeting

- Frankie shared that it went well. He wasn't sure how the cheat sheet of Robert's Rules went. Judith said she felt positive with the empowerment of the people to exercise their voice when it was brought up and decided to go to a ballot vote for the school budget. For the future, we should get the attendance for this year's meeting for comparison. Having the Chamber Choir and Pledge of Allegiance were excellent ideas for opening and closing. Childcare needs to be reviewed and have it be more structured. There is also a need to advertise the opportunity of having childcare available in the future. The pre-meeting dinner was very well attended and was a great opportunity to meet townspeople, both for political and non-political reasons. Steve took some ideas from our Town Meeting to Lowell, VT for suggestions. People were very engaged.

Financial Report

- Scanned attachment (hopefully)

Sub-committee Meetings

- Sue shared the updating of the Town of Canaan's website for area businesses. Dianna recommends the use of postcards to all business listings (scanned attachment, hopefully)

Story Gathering Strategy

- Go to the Senior Meals to talk to them. The American Legion and Coos County Nursing Home as well.
- Have the younger students create a mock town meeting
- Provide a forum with young people; possibly set it up next school year to meet monthly?

Remember

- The data from story listening summarized in DBMS is going to happen at the back end of the website and through Facebook.

Rural Edge

- Greg discussed senior housing funding. The select board has been pursuing this with Rural Edge for some time. This takes the pressure off of Heart & Soul. The group feels that Canaan is a great place to have this available. The town would have to purchase land, but there is more funding available for that as well.
- Canaan needs to acquire "Village Destination" status – historical ideas – more grants are available as well as substantial tax credits. Meeting tomorrow at 2:30 at the Town Offices. (Those in attendance from H&S were Greg, Gana, Sue, Frankie, and Terrie)

- We will need to place “Village Destination Status” on each agenda in the future, focusing on creating a “Bedroom Town” with affordable housing.
- The town plan needs to be approved, then we can apply for Village Destination status.
- Greg also shared that the select board attended a conference sponsored by UVM Extension to learn more about their town, etc. Vermont’s futures – growth plateaued from 1995 to the present with everything. Vermont needs approximately 10,000 more people living/working in Vermont to show growth. If we have that mentality, it will help us go forward. One of the meet and discuss ways to go for it...but you have to work for it.

Listening Groups

- We need to reach out to people
- Send an email to Steve with interested parties email addresses to include in future mailings

Sharing Stores

- Sue and Gana said that the Historical Society’s DVD will be out for the Alumni Banquet.
- H&S would need to ask permission from the Historical Society to use snippets on YouTube.
- Using Frankie’s video that has already been created

Projects

- Water trough dedication – Historical Society is hoping to do this coinciding with the “Then and Now” projects at the Canaan Schools.
- Drones – UVM presentation and business (didn’t get the name) or LandVest; this could be utilized for a full view of the town; assess and come up with a cost; Frankie is the lead on this.
- Short list – was reviewed and discussed (set up in alphabetical order):
 - Beautification of Fletcher Park – on-going
 - Build gazebo in Fletcher Park w/flowers around it – Beecher Falls included, too; planning on historical markers in Beecher Falls as well (separate committee)
 - Community Garden – no one signed up at Town Meeting on the sheet provided; suggested we place an ad in the paper; Greg discussed VT Land Trust working with the town and Bill Johnson and his land located by the school to come up with a plan
 - Create more gatherings – get schools involved with the park in town; Judith shared the flowers in the park with the Builders Club and K-Kids; she has been working on this
 - Expand community wifi/cell/internet services across neighborhoods (for business and personal benefits – survey going out; radio repeaters every 500’; the map is at the Town Office; Morgan Wade is the POC
 - Expand Sugar Social...need to get word out to vendors; expanding Kid’s Corner
 - Farmers Market – already in Colebrook; not a priority for this team - **remove**
 - Increase social interactions & dialogue at Town Meeting – **accomplished!**
 - Ladies Fast Pitch Softball Tournament – not enough interest – **remove**
 - Picnic in the park, local live music – look into this and include the travelling pizza vendor; side discussion of having a park sub-committee to work with the Rec Park Committee to perhaps combine the two parks; the select board will approach the Rec Park on this concept
 - Students working during summer to revamp houses – need to meet with Gene Reid on how it would work; add carpenters as a component for consistent forward movement for grant writing

- Weekend between men's and slow pitch weekends – not enough time; too many other activities in the area – **remove**
- Welcome signs – redo and make a “thank you for coming” signs; fundraiser? Cost is \$400 per sign; possibly have LED lights so they can be seen at night; April and Christine will take the lead on this project

Other items

- Recorder – perhaps get an iPad with large G capacity so that we can share it with other committees and to collaborate with them; Frankie will research this information and get back to us. Sue made a motion to vote on this; Greg 2nd; approved
- Long term list – our project this month is to review the long term list utilizing the form previously used to rate projects which Judith has and will forward to Steve; Steve will put it on Base Camp for our use in decision-making; we are to select a project from the list and research the pros and cons and be ready for presenting at the next meeting.
- The Stewartstown Day parade theme is Saturday Morning Cartoons. Start brainstorming for a float!

Reflections

- We covered a lot, lots of information
- Reminder of meeting at the Town Office tomorrow at 2:30 (April 7)
- Efficiency Vermont – LED lights for the town; Jonathan Thibeault will be working with the town on this project (alumni of CMHS Class of 2005)

Next meeting

- May 4th, 5:30-7:30 at the Northland
- Sue moved to close the meeting; Frankie 2nd; approved.