

Minutes of Canaan Naturally Connected, Inc. Meeting, November 21, 2019

Attendees: Diana Rancourt, Georgiana Carr, Frankie Sawicki, Angie Flanagan, Katie Sawicki, Sharon Ellingwood White, Suzanne Routhier, Bob and Rita Lee

Welcome

- Welcomed Sharon for joining CNC and members of the public Bob and Rita

Review of previous minutes (both monthly and quarterly)

- After review, Katie moved to approve, Georgiana seconded; all in favor

Public comments – St. Paul's Episcopal Church

- Bob and Rita Lee brought our attention to a possibility for the town of Canaan to receive the donation of the St. Paul's Episcopal Church on Powerhouse Road. The entire original email is attached for reference.
- Discussion ensued to include expenses of maintenance, heat, electricity and adding plexi-glass to the stained glass windows in the interior.
- The requirement for making the building handicap accessible is also an issue that could possibly be covered in part or whole by a grant
- We would need to petition the town as sponsors of this acquisition in order for the Select Board to place it as a warrant article at March's Town Meeting.
- All agreed to send Les Klinefelter the information to see if he would be willing to put something together to present to the board and then to see what grants would be out there to cover the issues surrounding this acquisition.

Public comments – Rail Trail

- Bob and Rita Lee brought to our attention a need for a walk/bike path utilizing the rail bed from Canaan to Beecher Falls
- Bob had done some research on this matter and it is complicated, but Littleton is working on this same project for a Littleton to Bethlehem trail
- Frankie said that the Select Board was working on getting a sidewalk implemented in the village of Beecher Falls
- The entire original email is attached for reference

Public comments – Former Duplesier's apartment house by the clinic

- Can the town purchase the building and tear it down to create a parking area for public use?
- There is an issue with the building materials at this time which make it unrealistic

Review of After Action Reports and November column

- Volunteer Fair; Angie suggested that we dovetail this opportunity with the Canaan School's Open House in the fall.
- Katie and Terrie can discuss this with the Steering Committee the next time they meet (December 12th)
- Trunk or Treat; we will revisit the following in August 2020: Do we look for an alternative location if we have inclement weather? Need more volunteers for traffic control, meet/greet; cones to cordon off moving traffic from "trunkers". Should we look into purchasing a tent for this and other outdoor events? More activities for children to participate after "trunking"?

Financial Report

- Georgiana reported that we have \$1125.16 in our account at this time
- There was a cost for the Volunteer Fair of \$66.00 and it was decided to remove it from the general fund and not grant money
- CNC Inc. received \$2000 from the Tillotson Grant to put towards the new Welcome Signs.
- Research in the Bangor Grant will be done by Les/Suzanne for the remaining \$3000 needed for the Welcome Signs
- Georgiana just received the Vermont Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan; she will review it and give us an overview at our side meeting on grants, November 26th

Current projects

1. Fletcher Park fountain; the town has received quotes from Dana Norburg to repair the fountain; Angie brought up the possibility of people donating towards purchasing pavers to make a path as a fundraiser; all in attendance thought that would be a good idea
2. Welcome to Canaan/Beecher Falls signs; Frankie will be embellishing the current photos to include leaves on the trees in Fletcher Park/Alice Ward Memorial Library
3. Tillotson Grant information session; Georgiana attended the informational meeting and there was no new information to share. Deadlines for grants of less than \$20,000 are due January 16 and July 16. The application forms will be online by December 2. Larger than \$20,000 are due July 16. The Tillotson Foundation wants the grants to be people powered to be the focus
4. VCF Northeast Kingdom Fund; Les came through again and CNC Inc is the recipient of a Spark Grant. The group will receive official grant notification from the Vermont Community Foundation at the end of November and the money will be sent out early December. The email also provided us with a budget tracker (this would be geared towards the creation of a brochure)
5. NEK Working Communities Challenge meeting November 22, 2019; Georgiana and Terrie will attend
6. Destination website; Diana has been working on it; the minutes and the agendas are already uploaded; Frankie volunteered to help Diana with this huge undertaking (thank you, both of you!)
7. Fundraising brainstorming session – separate meeting
8. Appropriation to petition for \$2000 status- we have 25 people who have signed the petition
9. Pamphlet update – this will be one of the focuses of the side meeting on November 26th
10. Discuss calendar for events/goals; internal/external; where are we placing this? Terrie will create a draft of ideas for the next meeting
11. Completion of Phase IV – celebration of soup and bread tonight of our accomplishments!

Public comments, communication with community/citizens

- Both Bob Rice and Angie discussed having a central “hub” to disseminate information; Destination website with urls on other websites, such as the North Country Chambers, etc.?

New Business

- December 6, Community Meeting at the Grace Community Church; “Resilience” facilitated by the Building Brighter Futures; Katie will put this event on the CNC site
- NEKCA cookie decorating event; December 14th from 1:00-4:00 at the NEKCA building
- NEKCA is letting the public know about the emergency fuel assistance program and informing them about the July date of applications

Next monthly meeting

- December 18, 4:30 NEKCA building

Side meeting on grants

- November 26, 2019, Grace Community Church, 5:00

Adjourn

- Terrie moved to adjourn the meeting; Angie seconded; approved at 6:48