

Minutes of Heart & Soul Meeting March 2, 2017

Attendees: Steve Mason (coach), Diana Rancourt, Greg Noyes, Frankie Sawicki, Sue Gosselin, Gana Carr, Christine Cote, Jonah Cote, Terrie Herr

The meeting opened with story sharing. Notes taken were that Canaan has been nominated for the Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence; efforts are being made as the Canaan Little League needs new people to organize and run the league; the Canaan Memorial High School OVX team had a huge simulation of a vehicular/snowmobile accident with members of the community also participating (Frankie being one). The students will have follow-up the next day to discuss what occurred, why, and the consequences that attribute to decision-making; while Steve was coming to the meeting he happened upon a pick-up truck with a trailer containing 2 sap tanks and was not moving while in the road. There was no driver, so he finally went around the vehicle and trailer. Terrie was late for the meeting as she was watching the Colebrook girls' game on NSNsports.

The minutes from the previous meeting were approved; Diana motioned for approval and Sue seconded it; approved.

Review of the agenda: omitted from the agenda was the Town Meeting and immediately was agreed we would make that the first topic of discussion.

Town Meeting

- Childcare, singing at the beginning of the meeting, the Pledge of Allegiance, will take place as well as voters having a "cheat sheet" made available to them (I missed what this contained, but perhaps it is a review of "Robert's Rules"?)
- The Class of 2020 will hold a spaghetti dinner prior to the meeting from 4:00-6:30 in the cafeteria
- While dinner is being served, Frankie will make his previously made video of Canaan for Heart & Soul available for those in attendance to view.
- Steve wanted to thank the town for the write-up in the 2017 Town Report.

You Tube

- This project hasn't been started yet but Jonah and Frankie will be working on it together and it will be ready for next month's meeting

Variety Show

- Diana confirmed that the Variety Show will take place on April 8 at 7:00 pm. There will be promotion and the performers will contact the Town Office. The proceeds will be to benefit the Rec Park.

2017 Tillotson Learning Community (TLC)

- Greg gave the team a breakdown of where the latest meeting was held. This was a gathering of people from a variety of towns who shared what each town had done up to this point to improve and promote their town; Greg shared what Canaan's Heart & Soul has done and our

vision while working as a team. They then broke into smaller groups to brainstorm (Greg has a compilation of notes that he typed up; if interested he might make a copy). In the end, the representative from Coaticook, PQ had selected Greg to work with and Greg had selected her as the goals and vision were the most common, as well as the close proximity geographically. Greg will be unable to attend the next TLC as it is slated for the same day/night as Town Meeting.

Tillotson Grant

- Diana and Greg have not heard back from them as of the meeting; Phoebe (point of contact) had spoken with Greg and Steve, then Phoebe had a separate conversation with The Orton Foundation afterward. She didn't understand why Heart & Soul did not have one big project it was focusing on. Greg and Steve discussed how our Heart & Soul operates with short term/long term goals, network analysis, etc. She seemed to have a better grasp after the conversation.

Facilitator Update

- Discussion ensued about the purpose of a facilitator. Greg believes that if we break the taskings down into pieces and each one of us takes on a part of the process/ownership, then there really is no need for a facilitator. The group agreed that this would be how we should proceed.
- Utilizing this format, as we have been, Canaan's Heart & Soul has to be flexible and no "end goal", always as a work in progress. This group needs to keep on evolving with projects, ideas, people; bringing up the Community Garden and the Town Forest as examples.

Financial Update

- The budget was given to all and Diana reviewed it with us. Approved.

Minutes from Sub-Committee Meetings

- The Network Analysis team met on March 1st, handouts were provided.
- The Local Business Directory was handed out for review and input by H&S stakeholders for the next meeting.
- Some questions highlighted from the handout: What housing do we have available for people wanting to move in to Canaan? Do we have workers for a new business to come in to town to hire? What types of jobs should be created to make townspeople stay or new townspeople to come in?
- Minutes from Network Analysis; Frankie made a motion to accept, Sue seconded. Approved.

Process

- Steve discussed briefly the Heart & Soul Phase 2 milestones in the field guide and admitted that there were some replications of Phase 1.
- One of the issues discussed was the consolidation of our stories and getting them out; social media; stories hold communities together
- The Historical Society has created a DVD with various people sharing their stories; we should take snippets and put it on YouTube for promotional purposes, both for Canaan and the Historical Society.
- The use of drones taking video and having it placed on the web was also brought up as an idea.

- Creation of a data management system needs to be created. If so, we will be the first to get this accomplished. An individual was mentioned for a possibility to ask if he would be interested in delving into this task (Bud Lima). Diana and Greg said they would review the job description and will get back to Terrie when it has been finished to broach Bud. If anyone has any other people that might be interested in this undertaking, please share at the next meeting.
- There is a need to tie the website/calendar with the database as data entry is filling 2 needs.

Other Business

- Jonah discussed the negativity that occurs when people want to do something to change things for more positivity at the High School.
- Steve shared EPA's vision for the future (farming, etc.) – potential for those who are tired of urban living would be interested in relocating to Canaan
- The issue of the lack of cell service/broadband remains a huge obstacle in order to entice people and/or businesses to relocate or begin here.
- Base Camp; Steve is going to look into consolidating Base Camp into 8 categories. It might even be more user friendly for Terrie 😊
- Diana collected the Skills Inventory; if you haven't brought yours in, please bring to the Town Office.
- Go through the short project lists before the next meeting.
- Greg brought up a traveling pizza person for an event; events are a great way to get information out
- Community Garden; who is interested? Where would it be located? How large? Near the school? Composting unit? Contracts?
- Perhaps our meetings should be recorded and then minutes could be created based on the recordings. In order to be a functioning part of the team, whomever is the "recorder" has a difficult tasking of getting all the pertinent information down as well as participate. Diana said she would look into it.

Reflection

- New projects
 - Clips on YouTube
 - Stories that are on the DVD be placed on YouTube (snippets)
 - Heart & Soul film used at Town Meeting dinner

The next Heart & Soul meeting will be on April 6 at The Northland, 5:30-7:30 pm. April Lemay is the contact person (decided at a previous meeting).

Greg made the motion to close the meeting at 7:30, Sue seconded. Approved.