

Minutes of Heart & Soul Meeting May 11, 2017

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

The meeting opened with story sharing: Notes taken were: meeting at Burke Mountain for Economic Development; ran into people who knew about Canaan. The meeting was primarily about tourism, which brings in \$2.6 billion dollars *. The month that brings in the most profit is August. Canaan needs to market itself better for our economic future and the paths to get there. Students “destroyed” the lawn at one individual’s house as she had started to grate the edges of the house – this was a good thing. There was a Civil War presentation recently at the Alice Ward Library. Canaan people were recognized who took part in the Civil War before a song was sung. One of us is a new proud grandmother after an extensive labor! A new chapter in one’s life is about to close and new one to open with the graduation of the last child. The new manager at Quimby Country met with one of our members. Yes, it is for sale for \$2.2 million as it was agreed that they were looking for any viable means to support its existence. They will be having an event during the July 4th weekend. The American Heritage Tour was a very moving, emotional and fun event. The kids were great – no issues. Lots of history was absorbed and it is recommended that everyone should do it. The Alice Ward Library received a grant for oral history. The kids are involved but is also something that we can tap into to record in our “story”. Brian Cook was interviewed who opened a brewery called Kingdom Brewing. Its relatively short existence has improved the area’s economy. It started out as a \$100,000 investment and now has over \$1 million in profits. Canaan should “tap” into something like this. Ice is out in Wallace. A local individual became famous when her picture was highlighted on WCAX. WCAX’s 1991 Profile of Essex County will be shown at the Conte Refuge on May 19th at 7:00 PM, with some interviews from the “1st Republic, 14th Star”. More information on this event may be obtained by calling 603-237-9302 or 603-246-8998, or on-line at www.gnwca.org.

* From the Department of Tourism and Marketing [2015 Benchmark Report – Tourism in Vermont](#).

Previous Minutes

- Approved by group

YouTube

- Frankie and Jonah have created a YouTube site; Dianna, Frankie, and Jonah have the information for it; one video has been uploaded of H&S thanking Steve and Trish for their work. The Variety Show snippets, found on the town website, could possibly be uploaded.

Variety Show

- Approximately 100 people attended the Variety Show. It may be found on the town’s website with a link to The Colebrook Chronicle who has the entire show.

Tillotson Learning Community (TLC)

- Their last meeting took place in Coaticook, PQ and was two days well spent; they were fed well. The mayor came in to speak about Coaticook who portrayed his passion for what they are doing. They have their own power supply resulting in a \$1.5 million profit. Ms. Favreau, their revitalization spokesman, reviewed their various projects, renovations, buildings. They rent an apartment to a resident artist whose payment is to leave a painting for the town when they leave. The history of the gorge was done in both English and French. When they first opened this

as a tourist attraction, they hypothesized 1500 people would come; 75,000 people came! They then had to realize the consequences of that issue. The following year over 100,000 people came and it keeps on growing. The Pioneer Trail (Canada – Pittsburg, NH – hoping to get to Beecher Falls). A church was turned into a performance hall. Mr. Norton's building which is now a museum-type venue based on the railroad was also toured. The group ended their second day at Lateriere. It was a very positive experience!

Tillotson Grant Application

- We were approved for a \$22,000 grant and we thanked them for this great opportunity.

Database Administration

- Jeff Richards met with Diana, Greg and Frankie. He found SQL to be labor intensive. Instead he suggested using Excel spreadsheets. Steve stated that he would try the skill excel spreadsheet from UVM to see if he can use it with our skill set data.
- iPad purchase has been approved; need to see Norine to purchase it. Steve will upload the video release on Base Camp. Frankie will discuss with the town lawyer for a policy.

Village Center Destination

- Trish is now on this board. Congratulations Trish! She's put in plugs for us. Grants are on Base Camp for village status. The meeting with stakeholders after the meeting/walk around with Richard Amore was well attended. There will be another meeting on June 8 in White River Junction.

Senior Citizens

- We need to meet with them at the senior meals, Hillside Acres, and CCNH and engage them in a story. Judith volunteered to be the French speaker to attend for database information. This will be a difficult task to get their stories due to perhaps a lack of understanding. Utilizing the iPad (yet to be purchased) or instruments loaned from the oral history grant at the Alice Ward Library, recording will be made much easier. Among the many things that should be captured is what they find lacking in Canaan for the elderly. Get old pictures, antiques to bring out their stories. We will wait until we have more concrete plans to delve in this plan.

Report on Town Meeting

- Review of the additions to Town Meeting. 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 (from previous minutes). Discussion on a Mock Town Meeting with students at the Canaan Schools. Judith said she would keep trying as she had brought it forward to the school board to see if teachers would participate in this activity. Unfortunately, no teachers volunteered to do this in the high school. The 4th grade does have a lesson in Town Meeting, voting, paying taxes, etc. However, due to the chamber choir's performance, pre-meeting dinner and childcare, approximately 40 students saw a portion of Town Meeting.
- Terrie spoke at the Steering Committee meeting and discussed meeting with students (Key Club) off and on to touch base with grades 7-12 for input in H&S goals, ideas, etc.

Rural Edge

- There has been no chance to speak with Brian Pickard at this time.

Canaan Town Plan

- The municipal plan has been approved. We can move forward with lighting, changing to LED and the removal of some, as well as the village status and the grants afforded to those who fit the criteria. It was suggested that if we could to have an old-fashioned gas light style for the area

designated as village status. The town should also have lights shining on the flag in the park, otherwise it should be taken down at dusk.

Historical Society's "Sharing Stories" Update

- The DVDs; waiting for final proof. They are hoping to sell them by Alumni weekend. April's Maple is selling the books on Canaan's history and have been a success. Asked if they could sell some of the DVDs there and April said yes.

Drones

- Frankie hasn't looked into it yet as other things have been a priority. There was discussion of how property owners have abandoned their buildings, banks own some of them and therefore have not been kept up. Having before and after pictures would be a good strategy for the village status movement. Judith requested that Dana Masson be kept in the conversation. At this time, an ordinance appears to also be in question.

Water trough

- Discussion of the mounting/dedication. Judith and Sally met and discussed this and decided to have the Historical Society take the lead on this project. Dates of this event that were brought up were Memorial Day, Stewartstown Day. It was also brought up to ask Allen Coats to participate with a horse and regalia.

Short-term Project Survey

- Hand out
- 1. Expand Community WiFi-Cell – Morgan Wade is the lead on the WiFi portion at the town level. The Colebrook Fire Department will be the location for all area emergency responders to discuss the new dispatch and cell.
- #1 was removed from the short-term list
- 2. Bring in Cyclists-Tourist Map – Discussion of the Hereford/East Hereford trail system and map; Burke Mountain/Kingdom Trails, Craftsbury's system, Canaan Border Riders maps. The discussion then changed to many aspects of this project to be moved to the long-term project list. #2 was removed from the short-term list and moved to long-term list.
- 3. Beautification of Fletcher Park; after a relatively short discussion, it was suggested that we ask the Rec Park committee to combine the Rec Park and Fletcher Park as one "Town Park Committee".
- 4. Create More Gatherings-Picnic in the Park-Local Live Music; it was discussed to combine #3 and #4 on the short-term list.
- 5. Businesses to Cross-Promote; not many businesses to promote, so should be removed from list. #5 removed from the short-term list.
- 6. Welcome Signs-More-Better; Christine and April and Julie Giroux are working on this and will present at the next meeting.
- 7. Community Garden; Georgiana and Greg spoke of Bill Johnson's land and Vermont Land Trust with the hope of using some of it without losing tax deductions. Farm to School and CMHS to have a greenhouse was discussed with Chris Masson briefly. Stewartstown is starting a farm-to-table and Colebrook is also looking into it. Preserving the food would also be another aspect of this project. More discussion ensued about the village status and perhaps attempting to turn Canaan as a "green town" example.

- Also discussed was the Tillotson Fund creating a non-motorized recreation plan and will be putting up bids for a comprehensive plan. This is on the agenda for the larger Tillotson Group meeting.
- Discussion ensued, but was voted to be tabled for a separate meeting at #8 Farmers Market as The Rudder was activated at 7:05 and again at 7:20. Good job Mr. Rudder!

Stewartstown Day

- Greg suggested that Casper the Friendly Ghost be our theme. More will be discussed on this topic at our next meeting as well as volunteers to help work on it.

Old Business

- Frankie's list for Sugar on Snow Social will be brought to the next meeting due to time constraints tonight. Discussion ensued about H&S sponsoring the Kiddie Corner. April moved to accept and Diana 2nd; all in favor; motion passed.

Financial Report

- Handout
- Property-sales handout
- Sue moved to accept the reports; Judith 2nd; all in favor; motion passed

Reflections

- We covered a lot, lots of information
- Exciting stuff happening outside our region

Next meeting

- June 13th, 5:30 at April's Maple
- Discussion will be long-term projects
- Leanne and Phoebe will be invited to attend
- **Remember, this is to be a potluck gathering**
- Sue moved to close the meeting; Greg 2nd; approved.