

## Minutes of Heart & Soul Meeting August 10, 2017

Attendees: Steve Masson (coach), Greg Noyes, Sue Gosselin, Dianna Rancourt, Georgiana Carr, Christine Cote, Jonah Cote, Les Klinefelter, Terrie Herr.

The Time Keeper/Rudder role was delegated to Jonah due to Frankie's absence. Recorder, Terrie, used the town's iPad to record for minutes.

Next Steps for *What Matters Most to Canaan?* The meeting opened with Steve discussing his recent trip to Carlisle, PA where there were approximately 50/60 volunteers for their Heart & Soul community. They too have been in the process of gathering data on what matters most for their town and have compiled over 500 cards, representing 4% of their population. Steve counted that we had collected 28 which represents approximately 2% of our population. (That was corrected later during the meeting as Diana found a large quantity of our cards in the basement closet). He went on to state that this is how we transition from Phase II to Phase III – evaluate the cards submitted and separate them by commonality. This would be a session that would be totally devoted to this data analysis by the group. A feeling that came out of the Carlisle experience is that there was a feeling that some topics that appeared were issues the group did not want to hear. This process is meant to identify problems and create solutions. Topics in that category were drug use and homelessness to name a few. We should not exclude any issues. Steve went on to say that the spreadsheet with our data is already and would post on Basecamp. (Now with the discovery of more cards, I trust that he will need more time to work on the spreadsheet).

### Story of the Month:

Discussions ensued about the Sugar Social that was held August 4<sup>th</sup>, participation and observances; book selling at the library that people seemed to enjoy during the Sugar Social, selling a bag of books for \$1.00 making a total of \$30.00; a certain member's reluctance to read instructions for the helium tank for the parade; Men's Softball Weekend was a great and successful time, regardless of the weather, but the Home Run Derby needed to be cancelled; robotics team, having received a grant to build a team, is participating in the First Tech Challenge and at this time have built a robot that can now move around; Canaan's H&S float won Funniest in the Stewartstown Day Parade garnering \$75.00 and a ribbon; Island Pond's Fantastic Friday was attended two weeks ago being lots of fun and running into several Canaan area residents.

### Approval of the Minutes:

Les moved; Diana seconded; approved

### Review Agenda:

Accepted

### Review past Minutes-Next Steps:

- You Tube Update: Jonah shared that he and Frankie are adding key words for search results to obtain more hits; reviewing channel designs, header banner and the like.
- Database Administrator: Greg stated that he would need to discuss this with Lianne and provided minutes from the Network Analysis Team's meeting held on July 25, 2017

- Update on Village Center Designation: has been officially accepted for both towns, Canaan and Beecher Falls; Frank Unan will probably be the first one to use the advantage of this benefit for the former Poutre's Hardware in Beecher Falls; this concept needs more exposure besides the Canaan newsletter and those who attended the business owners meeting prior to being approved; need to get press releases in the local papers as well as on the town's web pages.
- Seniors Story: Terrie will go to the Senior Citizens meal with Greg. He will get back to her with a date/time, unless Judith is available.
- Website Update: 10 cards from businesses were received and the site has had approximately 4000 hits (Canaanvt.com). There is a link to this website from the Canaan Destination website link; how to move on? Add a snippet of the Historical Society's DVD
- Rural Edge Update: Brian Pickard hasn't gotten back to Greg. Steve will ask Trish to ask at her meeting with him next week for an update.
- Historical Society's *We Remember Growing Up in Canaan* DVD: they have sold all 50 copies that they had and 50 more came in on August 10
- Drones: Greg has not looked in to it; the representative from UVM will need to be contacted; he hasn't had time to do this; possibly get in touch with Dana to rent/use; determine the use and then decide about purchase or rent
- How to request iPad use: there is a form in the office; Steve will get the form on Basecamp
- Water trough dedication: no decision has been made as to when this will occur; waiting for the flowers in the park to die
- Stewartstown Day Float Project Report: received Funniest with \$75.00 prize and a ribbon; placing the prize money in our general fund was moved, seconded, and approved to off-set the cost of materials for the float
- Sugar on Snow Social: Frankie was absent but Terrie had discussed in the "Story of the Month" section; will wait for next meeting for Frankie's report
- Long-Term Projects Strategy:
  - Non-Motorized Recreation
  - Improve the Visualization of Gale Street
  - Cultural Destination tied w/Parks and Recreation
  - Brick and Mortar
  - Shelter

The requested one page descriptions were given to Diana who will collate once all are received.

#### Old Business:

Les discussed the Chamber of Commerce's exposure of the North Country via the Sunday Boston Globe paid by a grant; they have done this on two separate occasions and Canaan has been in the ad; the contact with the North Country Chamber of Commerce's inquiries doubled after publishing this ad; do we want to run an ad; \$3,877.00 for 6 months.

251 Club: trying to acquire pictures of all 251 towns; Greg is going to ask to be on the list for information as it advertises at the Eastern States (The Big E) in Springfield, MA and have displays in Boston, MA for more exposure.

Welcome signs – Christine and April are working on this project; Greg shared Mike Furbish in Colebrook, NH as a contact/possible creator of the signs (603-237-4685).

Coaticook is dedicating a “stile” (silhouette) dedicating to Neil Tillotson as part of the Pioneer Trail. This provides a talking history of Mr. Tillotson. This will be constructed in Beecher Falls, VT.

The Naturally Connected banner should have the original phrase printed on the banner by SqueeGee Printers before the Moose Festival. Terrie made a motion; Les seconded; all approve

Setting up for Moose Festival; perhaps where we were last year or check on having a table for \$30.00.

Food Drop: there will be a food drop; Diana will ask the school to do an all-call; the question was brought up about providing volunteers to drive items to housebound individuals.

Scarecrow Competition will occur again; Terrie will work on this for the next meeting.

#### Carlisle PA:

In addition to the aforementioned, this H&S depends on one church to run this group. We have as many partnerships as this city. As it is located at a crossroads for various interstates, they want to have less people come to their city which is the total opposite problem of Canaan's.

#### Moose Festival:

- Greg and Georgiana will team up but will welcome any other volunteers to man our booth
- Cards will be provided for people to fill out with the question “What matters most to Canaan?”
- They will be there both days

#### Next meeting

- September 7th, 5:30-7:30 at the Town Office
- If anyone wants to bring snacks, please do so
- Terrie moved to close the meeting; Jonah 2<sup>nd</sup>; approved