

## Minutes of Heart & Soul Meeting November 9, 2017

Attendees: Steve Masson (coach), Sue Gosselin, Frankie Sawicki, Katie Sawicki, Greg Noyes, Diana Rancourt, Terrie Herr

### Agenda

- Diana moved to approve; Sue seconded; approved

### Previous Minutes

- Terrie moved to accept; Sue 2<sup>nd</sup>; approved

### Next Steps for Forum/Summit: *What Matters Most to Canaan?*

- Steve met with the lady who ran the Essex forum for information needed for our forum. As we have 5 themes, we should set up 5 tables where each table is labeled with what represents one of our statements. Ten people at each table and each person tells a story of why the statement means something to them (thick data). How we came up with the statements is thin data. After the introduction to the forum, that individual will explain the process of how the participants are to select a table that they wish to sit at to provide ideas and why it is important to them. An H&S member will be at each table to moderate, and hopefully another member will be there to transcribe on sheets of the stories shared. If not, the moderator will have to perform both tasks. At the end of this portion of the forum, one person summarizes what was discussed. The moderator should ask the people at the table what activities are important to them. Example: community – safe place – everyone looks out for everyone. Safety becomes the important point which evolves to what safety things do we have and should have, such as lights, sidewalks, crossing from the rec park to the school, etc. This creates the project lists.

The team goes through the data at the next meeting. What was most relevant to the greater percentage? Was there a big representation of the town (areas, ages)? Make sure all groups are invited to the event. If they don't attend, that's okay – they were invited. We will create an invitation list at our next meeting, other taskings at the forum, as well as door prizes (100 gallons of heating fuel has already been suggested).

Make all data collections available at the forum so that all participants can see them. It should be two hours in length plus one hour for dinner. Have conversation starters at each table. This is to be a luncheon of soup and bread with desserts and beverages. Ask Key Club members, National Honor Society members and the like to participate or to provide child care.

The date chosen was Saturday, February 10, 2018 12:00-3:00 at the school gym (Diana will get the required paperwork from the school). Door prizes will be purchased through our fund. Child care will be provided. A good write-up in the paper, Facebook, and the Canaan Newsletter will be our advertising. A follow-up advertisement in the local papers will also be purchased. A request for the use of the school's "all call" system will be looked into, delegated to Terrie.

No issue brought up should be discounted. Moderators will have to listen and ask open-ended questions to evoke responses and solutions.

### YouTube

- Frankie stated that there 7 stories that have been uploaded at this time.

### Senior's/Student's Stories

- Terrie updated that she had met with a student on November 3<sup>rd</sup> at CMHS, age of 13, female. When asked what she liked about Canaan, she responded that it was a small town and everyone knows everyone. What she disliked was that there was not much to do for people her age. She was oftentimes bored doing the same things all the time, such as walking; in order to do things she liked she had to travel (dance in Lancaster and acting in Colebrook). She would like to see a coffee shop/student center type of place as well as a movie theatre. She also said that Canaan should have a museum moving the historical society from the Alice Ward Memorial Library to another location and use the upstairs for a quiet space in order to study. Some things that she would change would be to have more events to include community challenges involving companies. This interaction was very positive and was a good source of great ideas.

### Financial Report

- Handed out by Diana; Terrie moved to approve, Frankie seconded; approved.

### New Business

- Scarecrow entries were reviewed by photographs and categories. There were a total of 16 known participants between Canaan and Beecher Falls. Although difficult to choose, the following were declared the winners receiving a certificate and a scarecrow:  
Scariest – The Varley's  
Funniest – Grace Community Youth Group  
Prettiest – Annette Boynton  
Friendliest – The Houle's  
Best Recycling – The D'Aiello's
- Perhaps we should have this as a news item in the local papers? (Hind sight idea, not discussed at the meeting)

### Next meeting

- December 14<sup>th</sup> from 5:30-7:00 at the Canaan Town Office
- To be included on the agenda will be what has been accomplished from the beginning of the creation of Canaan H&S, invitation list, as well as a "skeleton" of the forum
- Greg moved to close the meeting; Sue 2<sup>nd</sup>; approved.