

Town of Bridgewater
Committee to Save the Bridgewater Village School Building
Minutes of July 31, 2018

DRAFT MINUTES

Location: Bridgewater Grange Hall

Date: July 31, 2018

Time: 4:30 PM

Meeting was called to order at approximately 4:35 PM by Brian Bontrager.

Present: Brian Bontrager, Hank Smith, Bill Young, Vicky Young, and Joni Kennedy

Visitors: Lynne Bertram – Bridgewater Select Board, Bob Haynes - GMEDC, Kathleen Dolan – Artistree, Mark van Gulden – ArtisTree, Maureen Burford – Creative Lives, Lynne McEvoy, Michael Caduto – Sustainable Woodstock, Beth Robinson – OHF, Kaitlyn Knapp - ArtisTree

Brian asked for a motion to approve the July 3, 2018 meeting minutes. Hank made the motion to accept and Vicky seconded it.

Hank welcomed all of the visitors and gave some background on how our committee was formed with the objective to save, preserve and repurpose the Bridgewater Village School Building. He discussed the RFP that went out. He also gave a brief overview of a LOI that was received from the GMF and presented to the Select Board.

Everyone took a moment to go around the room and introduce them selves.

This is the first time we have met since presenting the LOI from GMF to the Select Board on July 24, 2018 and planning for the next steps.

Bullet Points of the meeting:

- Hank shared that the Vermont Community Foundation is very enthusiastic about offering us support and acting as an Umbrella non-profit fiduciary (Fiscal Agent)

- Hank indicated that we could use the IRS EZ form if we wanted to set up our own Non-Profit.
- Uses and types of Programming for a Successful Transition in becoming a Community Building
- There are NOT a lot of Public Spaces available for people to go in general. Look at needs locally as well as regionally making it more viable.
- Regional and State grants and public money are available. Montpelier is aware of the efforts underway to save the School Building
- Need for preschool/childcare – Great location as buses pick up and drop off at that location. Killington bus goes right by. Work with the Prosper School (since Bridgewater kids now go to the school)...they may need space for preschool
- Food Shelf, Senior Space (working with Thompson Senior Center), Adult Day Care, Social Services, combining both Post Offices
- Downstairs could still be used for Town Meeting
- Putting it back as the Town Emergency Shelter – could make it Off Grid so the building would be fully sustainable – School is already wired for a generator.
- Assistance with research on energy efficiency was offered from Sustainable Woodstock
- Assessing community needs locally and regionally

ACTION ITEMS:

- Hank will follow up with the Thompson Senior Center and meet with them next week
- Hank will follow up with VCF and meet with them next week
- Maureen Bumford will follow up on potential Daycare and After School Programs
- Kathleen Dolan will follow up with groups who potentially would be interested in using the facility...and identify other possible donors
- Beth Robinson will try to get a sense as to how the OHF can work with our committee
- Bob Haynes will put together a list of State and Regional sources of grant money.....amount and deadline for applications
- Brian will contact Engineering and Construction Firms to get proposals to do a complete assessment of the building

We would like to thank all of the visitors who attended today's meeting and for coming together with us and supporting the effort to save the Bridgewater Village School Building and sharing information and resources available in support of our town and community.

Our next meeting will be on Monday, August 13th at 4:30 pm at the Bridgewater Grange Hall in Bridgewater.

Brian made the motion to adjourn at 5:55pm and Hank seconded it.

The Committee meets once a month on the first Tuesday of every month at the Bridgewater Grange Hall at 4:30 pm. Please note that the July 31st meeting replaced our August 7th meeting.

We invite community members to join us at our monthly meetings as we welcome your thoughts and ideas.

Respectfully submitted,

Joni Kennedy