

Town of Bridgewater
Committee to Save the Bridgewater Village School Building
Minutes of August 13, 2018

DRAFT MINUTES

Location: Bridgewater Grange Hall
Date: August 13, 2018
Time: 4:30 PM

Meeting was called to order at approximately 4:40 PM by Brian Bontrager.
Brian welcomed the visitors.

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

Visitors: Lynne Bertram – Bridgewater Select Board Member, Maureen Burford – Creative Lives, Michael Caduto – Sustainable Woodstock, Sue Kancir, Bob Kancir, Alice Paglia, Raymond Kennedy Sr.

Brian asked for a motion to approve the July 31, 2018 meeting minutes. Hank made the motion to accept the meeting minutes and Bill seconded it.

Bullet Points of the meeting:

- Transitioning the Building into a Community Center
- Hank had another meeting with the Vermont Community Foundation and after looking at several options regarding fiscal management it was determined that it would make more sense to form our own non-profit corporation. There is an EZ Form and we would qualify for it. We would set up specific objectives for the non-profit. The non-profit would then be responsible for all expenses, maintenance, grants, fundraising, programming, revenue etc...of the school
- We would propose that the Non-Profit would enter into a Long Term Lease with the Town and that the Town would continue to own the building
- Hank met with the Thompson Senior Center's Executive Director Deanna. They are interested in satellite programming and are committed to using the building for Senior Center activities
- We would propose to use the school as the Town Emergency Shelter.....It is already set up to do that
- Important to look at how meeting needs might fulfill a town plan (Pre-School/Child Care/After School Programs, Enrichment/Life Skills Programs, Cultural Arts, Senior Programs, Community Space (not many in the area), Social

Services, Health and/or Wellness, Town Meeting Hall, Emergency Shelter for the Town, Food Shelf, Post Office).

- We discussed the possibility of putting together a Tri fold Brochure
- An overview was given about the Bridgewater Historical Society
- Maureen Burford with Creative Lives in WRJ, at <https://www.creativelives.org> said that a really well run after school program and summer programs can bring in parents. She spoke about the incentives available to build quality programs and that there can be big subsidies. Maureen spoke about the importance of Life Skills and Enrichment Classes. OHF might be a possible resource if training was needed for care providers to become certified in child care.

Maureen shared the following contacts with us as resources for consulting and to meet with.

1) Green Mountain Childrens Center – Sharon Miller-Dombroski, Executive Director in Hartford, VT 802 296-2296, <https://gmccvt.org>

2) Vermont Afterschool - Holly Morehouse, Executive Director 802 448-3464, <http://www.vermontafterschool.org>

3) Family Place in Norwich, VT – Nancy Bloomfield, Executive Director Phone: 802.649-3268, <http://www.familyplacevt.org>

Additional resources to look up - Jane Addams Hull- House – Chicago

<https://www.hullhousemuseum.org/about-jane-addams>

Cedar Circle Farm – East Thetford <https://cedarcirclefarm.org>

Bugbee Senior Center - <https://www.bugbeecenter.org> – Interaction with youth

She shared a statewide campaign – Let’s Grow Kids

<https://www.letsgrowkids.org>

- Assistance with research on energy efficiency from Sustainable Woodstock
- Assessing community needs locally and regionally

ACTION ITEMS:

- Maureen Burford will try and arrange a possible meeting with the three contacts she provided. She is working on getting a model survey for us through Holly Morehouse at Vermont Afterschool.
- Michael Caduto – Will contact TRORC and LEPC #12 to talk about the project, about making the building energy efficient, get input and ideas, and possible sources of funding
- Michael Caduto – Will research some State and Federal Grants
- Joni will meet with Lauren Skaskiw this week to get a Tour of the Plymouth Pre-school and Community Center.
- Joni will reach out to the United States Postal Service/Lease Manager
- 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 for the cost to do a complete assessment of the building.

We would like to thank all of the visitors who attended today's meeting in support of our town and community.

Our next two meeting will be on Monday, August 20th and Monday August 27th at 4:30 pm at the Bridgewater Grange Hall in Bridgewater.

Hank made the motion to adjourn at 6:05pm and Bill seconded it.

The Committee meets once a month on the first Tuesday of every month at the Bridgewater Grange Hall at 4:30 pm.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Joni Kennedy