

Minutes of the Halifax Community Club Meeting on April 8, 2019

Community Hall, 20 Brook Road, West Halifax VT

Attending: Gretchen Becker (VP 2017), Bonnie Brown (Trustee 2017), Laurel Copeland (Pres 2017, Clerk), Joan Courser (Trustee 2018), Lynda Copeland, Edie Fenton, Linda Lyon, Jason Ashcroft, Gary Rand, Andrea Rand (new – 2019), Diana Conway (new – 2019), Nancy McCrea (new – 2019).

Absent: John Kirk (Treasurer), Marilyn Allen, Penfield Chester, Julia Copeland, Heidi Schmitt

ANNUAL MEETING CONVENED at 6:50 PM

- 1. Meeting Minutes** from October – voted to approve.
- 2. Annual Meeting with Trustee Meeting immediately following** (BYLAWS: In the event that the annual meeting shall fail to take place at the time so designated through oversight or otherwise, a subsequent meeting may be held to be designated as the postponed annual meeting and any business transacted or elections held at such postponed meeting shall be as valid as if transacted or held at the annual meeting...At least one trustee shall be elected at each annual meeting for a three (3) year term...All officers shall hold their office until the next annual meeting of the body electing them or until their successors have been duly elected.")
 - a. Election of the Clerk for 1-year term (Annual Meeting) – Laurel Copeland
 - b. Establish the annual membership fee (Annual Meeting) - \$5 and \$7 were proposed; \$5 had 4 votes while \$7 had 2 votes. Dues remain \$5 per year. 10 members paid their 2019 dues: Linda, Edie, Diana, Nancy, Gary, Andrea, Lynda, Laurel, Heidi, and Julie. New members were warmly welcomed including Gary Rand who joined last fall but attended in person for the first time tonight, Andrea Rand (the Rands live on Branch Road), Nancy McCrea, and Diana Conway (Diana and Nancy and other in-laws live on Thurber Road in the old Luther Ray place).
 - c. Election of Trustee(s) for 3-year term(s) (Trustee Meeting) – John Kirk, Treasurer. We voted John Kirk in as trustee for another 3-year term and as Treasurer for 2019.
 - d. We forgot that we needed to elect all officers every year; President and Vice President shall be elected at next meeting.
- 3. Treasurer's Report** –The balance in the checking account is \$9586.93. This includes expenses of \$49.63 for Green Mountain Power and \$289.88 for Suburban Propane, and income of \$163.00 from Tai Chi, a donation for \$25.00, and hall rental to Senior Solutions of \$40.00. **(John)**
- 4. New Business**
 - a. **Fundraising** – Breakfast at the Hall on Saturday, May 4, 2019, from 7-10 AM. (Joan) The menu includes 3 kinds of pancakes, real maple syrup, eggs Benedict, sausage from Jacksonville General Store, scrambled eggs, hash brown casserole, fresh fruit,

juice and coffee. \$8 for adults. **Volunteers for May 4:** Gretchen, Diana, Laurel, Gary, Linda for clean-up. Cassie Bettis & kids will cook the pancakes.

- b. **Fundraising** – we are waiting to hear from the I-91-N Southeastern Vermont Welcome Center regarding our coffee service / fundraising date. The Welcome Center assigns the date. The nonprofit may not sell anything, list any prices, or solicit donations. The nonprofit shall provide coffee, other soft drinks, and snacks, listed free of charge, and have a Donations box on the table. The day will be a Thursday, Friday, Saturday, or Sunday in May-October. Set-up begins at 7:30 AM. Quitting time no later than 9:00 PM. The guidelines for hosting a Motorist Aid Refreshment Break located at a link on this page: http://informationcenter.vermont.gov/centers/guilford/safety_break. Please let Laurel know of your availability to help staff this event. **(Laurel)**
- c. **Comments on HCC funds** – we are using our \$10,000 reserve funds now because we decided last year to complete all the Hall updates at once. Andrea wondered if the charges for Hall use were too low to sustain it; Bonnie thought it might be wise to increase the rental fees. Keeping prices low for Halifax residents and residents of nearby towns was generally agreed to be a priority. Relying on benefactors has worked well for 50 years, much as the Historical Society relies on Carl Barmen. Joan suggested we ask for more money, say \$2500 rather than the current \$2000 from the Town of Halifax; Laurel will write that request next fall for Town Meeting in March 2020.
- d. **Comments on fundraising ideas** – a musician (Bekka Eowind) is new in town. There was discussion of her offer to trade playing Irish music at an HCC event for a load of gravel. It was felt that gravel was hard to come by (and expensive) and that using the hall for other musical purposes would not produce income for HCC.
- e. **Comments on using the Hall as a shelter** – as discussed last year, the Hall is poorly suited for overnight (no potable water, no showers) but might be a useful warming center during an emergency. It did not flood during Storm Irene (2011).

5. **Halifax Community maintenance 5-year plan**

Subcommittee formed by Marilyn Allen and Linda Lyon to expand the list of maintenance tasks (routine & large-scale), estimate their costs, schedule it out, and report back to the HCC. **(Marilyn, Linda L, John, and Laurel)**

- a. REPORT: HCC has completed the items from the October 2017 priority list (septic system; electrical wiring; insulation; painting the exterior).
- b. New priorities should be established.

Priority #1: Wash the windows (report) – Windows will be washed by Shine-Thru in 2019. **(Laurel)** The membership voted to delay window-washing to 2020, just prior to the Old Home Day.

6. **Ice Cream Wagon**

- a) Proposal to round off the prices for ice cream from \$5.75 to \$6.00, and from \$2.75 to \$3.00 was accepted at the September 2018 meeting. Confirmed.
- b) What updates and repairs does the Ice Cream Wagon need? Ask Joan next month.

7. Old Business

- a. **Article about Hall Murals – proposed: frame and hang in the Hall** – Joan brought several articles to the meeting and left the newspaper originals with **Laurel to frame** the October 2017 Halifax News lead story and **to write up** the 2012 gardening story for a future Newsletter. October update: Laurel has not gotten to this yet. **(Laurel)**
- b. **Community Phone Book – No Update 6/18 or 8/13.** Proposal to sell ads to support a listing of community members who want to be included with any contact info they choose, e.g., Name, physical address, mail address, email address. A single snail-mail outreach solicits listings. Examples show each letter of the alphabet with listings of the contributed names and some blank space for write-ins. HCC members support paying the costs of mail-out and printing. Businesses could comprise a section. "Neighbors Helping Neighbors" resource list would comprise a separate section, perhaps on pink paper to make it easy to find. POST-MEETING UPDATE: Penfield reported needing to delay this a few months. **(Penfield)** Laurel corresponded with Penfield, who is still recuperating her knee. Penfield mentioned she needs assistance with the directory; Laurel will try to provide it.

Other New Business – Laurel asked whether she could sell sweets and cards and such as the May 4 breakfast as a fundraiser for HCC; there were no objections. T-shirts were suggested as well. And the cookbooks! HCC Membership forms will also be on the table.

Clean-Up Bee: We need to find a weekend in May to clean up the Hall grounds!

Bake Sale Memorial Day Weekend: Laurel will ask Pam at JGS.

Meeting Conduct: Linda Lyon requested that meetings be more focused on the business at hand, and that members not talk over or interrupt each other.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING (2nd Mondays): Monday, May 13, 2019.

MEETING ADJOURNMENT 8:00 pm.