

**Minutes of the Halifax Community Club Annual Meetings on Feb. 13, 2023
Laurel Copeland's, 1513 Hanson Road, Halifax VT**

Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7814490827?pwd=bTRLMCtDdzgrR2NndWV5andxTG0vUT09> Meeting ID: 781 449 0827 Passcode: 123

One tap mobile +16469313860,,7814490827#,,,,*123# US

Present: John Kirk (Treasurer, Trustee 2022), Laurel Copeland (Pres, Clerk, Trustee 2020; LaurelACopeland@gmail.com), Bonnie Brown (Trustee 2020), Gary Rand, Marilyn Allen, Linda Lyon, Juliet Blackett.

Other members: Gretchen Becker (VP, Trustee 2020), Joan Courser (Trustee 2022), Lynda Copeland, Heidi Schmitt, Andrea Rand, Penfield Chester, Jason Ashcroft, Diana Conway, Nancy McCrea, Julia Copeland.

NB: Trustees are elected for 3-year terms; year of election is noted in parentheses. Clerk is elected annually by the membership. Bylaws:

<https://czresearch.com/halifax/BYLAWSOFTHEHALIFAXCOMMUNITYCLUBINC.pdf>

ANNUAL MEETING CONVENES at 6:32 PM

1. **Meeting Minutes** from July 11, 2022 – voted to approve HCC 2022 Annual Mtg minutes: <https://czresearch.com/halifax/MinutesHalifaxCommunityClub2022-07-11.pdf>
2. **Treasurer's Report – (John)** The treasurer provided records of HCC expenses and income in advance and reported, “The current balance in the checking account is \$19,847.34 down from \$19,999.54 at 2022 year's end after paying \$80.92 for electricity and \$72.34 in expenses for Senior Meal in January. No major maintenance or capital improvement expenses were incurred in the year.” Senior Solutions changed the reimbursement arrangement. They will send a set amount. We are waiting for the Town to tell us whether they will give us money from their ARPA funds for a generator. Laurel reminded HCC members that we were concerned about being responsible for the ongoing maintenance of a propane-fueled generator (\$800/year). Linda Lyon commented that the money sitting in the account could be used on deferred maintenance, e.g., for the ice cream wagon.
3. **New Business**
 - a. **Vote on Trustees with expired terms** – Gretchen Becker (Trustee elected 2020, HCC Vice President), Bonnie Brown (Trustee elected 2020), Laurel Copeland (Trustee elected 2020, HCC President) – the incumbents were reinstalled.
 - b. **Vote on Clerk (occurs annually)** (incumbent is yours truly, Laurel) – Done.
 - c. **Building our membership.** Introduction of 2 new members, Juliet Blackett and Linda Lyon, both of Halifax.
 - d. **Windham Southwest Supervisory Union** is in the process of implementing its new Strategic Plan for Student Success 2022-27 and will share the plan with us per Jillian Valerio of WSWSU; Sandy Pentak-Cohen our principal, and Homer (Chum) Sumner of our school board are engaged in implementing the plan. Barbara Anne Komons-Montroll presented slides which are available online here: <https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1->

[dYPDJ2XhL5ndKRVLLn4N5flkNPN6o9OweB1UoAoGo/edit#slide=id.g20868bdc58c0_0](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1lq0_wDP1xl7q8nFuTg2xIIn6EQcfzY2o/view) The Plan is online here:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1lq0_wDP1xl7q8nFuTg2xIIn6EQcfzY2o/view
Members discussed past and potential activities involving the school—working on the natural area at the back of the school grounds (past), singing at Senior Meal (past), helping prepare and serve at funeral/memorial receptions (potential). How might the school like to use the Community Hall? COVID is still a concern. Laurel can serve as a contact for Sandy P-C. Linda Lyon offered visit(s) with her therapy dog, Kelso—kids can read to the dog as happens at Brooks Memorial Library.

- e. **MCC model** – the Marlboro Community Center (MCC) offers: gathering space, 4 days a week coffee & treats for suggested donation, weekly takeout dinner for suggested donation, food pantry, activities [major issues: heat; staffing; Wi-Fi; water] If implemented in West Halifax, this would be a gathering place for the town. Laurel is willing to staff the Hall one partial day a week. Could have knitting, crocheting, beading, or other craft activities. Start with one morning a week—Saturday? Gary commented that Andrea is working on a talk about Kyra Markham she would like to deliver at the Hall for the Halifax Historical Society. Joan Courser handles Hall rentals (802-368-7733 or JWCinVT@gmail.com).
- f. **Other new business** –

4. Events in 2023

- a. **Saturday, May 27, 2023 - Edie Fenton Memorial Plant Swap**, West Halifax – with coordinated Halifax Historical Society open house as last year? Bonnie’s wonderful plant supply won’t be as voluminous as in the past. Please start seedlings so we have lots of plants at the event! Linda Lyon offered to do the publicity.
- b. **Saturday, July 1, 2023 - Ice Cream Wagon at Halifax Firemen's Auction**, West Halifax
- c. **Saturday, August 5, 2023 - Ice Cream Wagon at Halifax Firemen's Clam Bake**, Old Cody Farm, Old County Road, Halifax

5. Old Business

- a. **Ice Cream Wagon – Volunteers are needed** to help Laurel with Ice Cream Wagon events. Gary has graciously volunteered to tow the wagon to events when Wayne wants to stop. Events: Halifax Firemen’s Auction (1 person); Wardsboro July 4th (2 persons); Jacksonville Blueberry Festival (2 persons); Halifax Firemen’s Clam Bake (3-4 persons); Halifax School Fundraiser (donation; 1 person); Halifax Celebration Day (1-2 persons). John Kirk noted that the ice cream wagon generates income. Gary Rand commented that the freezer is wearing out. A new one is \$1200-up. Juliet Blackett (JB) will volunteer, and Gary Rand (GR), too. The trailer itself is another issue. Should 2 of us **assess the wagon** (JB)? The frame of the ice cream wagon needs to be assessed. Might the new freezers be 220V (GR)? [Post-meeting: I found commercial reach-in ice cream freezers that were 115V]
- b. **Dinners** – in July we discussed having a few dinner get-togethers but a volunteer to plan such events was not identified. Any volunteers? Host a potluck at your house,

or propose another idea. Linda and Bonnie volunteered. Gary favors going to a restaurant. **Linda** proposed March or April for a dinner.

- c. **Bringing internet to the Hall** so that it can be a Wi-Fi hotspot for the community. Internet at the Hall would be a safety feature, allowing people to make calls on their cell phones in the event of an emergency. A consideration before deciding about internet at the Hall is whether the Club could absorb the ongoing monthly payments for service. Marilyn Allen said the broadband CUD is putting new poles up in the Center. Booster for cell phone carriers, cell phone over Wi-Fi setting in smartphones. VTel extender helps cell phone service in the Center. DVfiber has been allocated \$100K for Halifax households with impaired ability to connect, e.g., mobile homes that require underground connection. \$100/month might be the starting fee; this could decrease as more people sign on. **Gary** will ask Tristan Roberts.
- d. **Trustees** – make decisions on purchases <\$3500. No concerns were noted.
- e. **Developing a budget for annual operations** as well as projecting out expected needs for maintenance, appliances, etc. (deferred)
- f. **Other** – Gary Rand brought up the activities of the Vermont Old Cemetery Association in Bennington restoring vandalized headstones with the VFW. This year the VOCA will come to West Halifax on June 3 (rain: June 4), the HHS will open the Hall for food and bathrooms. Gary will talk to Lynn Derby about involving the VFW. **Linda L volunteered** to do publicity for the event including contacting Chris Mays with script and photos to put in the Reformer. Publicity will include FPF, Town website, Brattleboro Reformer, Deerfield Valley News, The Commons, the Whitingham Free Public Library.

MEETING ADJOURNS 7:47 PM

ANNUAL TRUSTEE MEETING CONVENES

- i. Elections (occur annually) – Trustees voted to install the incumbents, President (Laurel), Vice President (Gretchen), and Treasurer (John).
- ii. Membership fee – “The trustees shall establish the amount for the annual membership fee.” Still needed? John Kirk noted the dues have little economic impact. Laurel will send an email to members asking for voluntary membership fee, suggested amount \$5, to John Kirk.
- iii. Meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING (usually 2nd Mondays): TBD