

Mont Vernon Heritage Commission
Public Meeting Minutes 2/11/21
Approved

In Attendance: Charles Baker, Rebecca Schwarz, Tim Berry, Brian Billow, Randy Wilson, John Morison

Absent: Zoe Fimbel

Community Member: Sarah Beth Ross

Called to Order: 7:15pm

LCHIP: Berry reports that he, Baker and Schwarz met with George Born and Dijit Taylor of LCHIP. The reps stated that they had applications for more than twice the funds than funds available. They stated that our application was not denied because they didn't think we were in need, but because they felt there were other projects that were in greater need than our project. They did state that projects that asked for less than 50% of our project cost our application would have been more appealing. They will only grant funds to projects that are not started yet, so we could not retroactively apply should we choose to move forward with the windows. Schwarz states that her impression of the meeting was not that they did not think we needed the funds, or our project wasn't worthy, it was just that among the applicants there were other projects that had a more pressing need. Schwarz feels we could be successful with an application this year. They did suggest possibly applying for the Moose Plate grant as well should we need additional funds. Baker states the thing that struck him was that they have more criteria than he realized. He'd like to probe deeper to make sure we address these criteria in this year's application. Berry discusses some of the Board of Selectmen's for the Town Hall regarding warrant articles and planning projects. As discussion continues, Baker suggests we put this topic on the agenda for next month so we can discuss it further in more detail.

Moose Plate Grant: Schwarz states that she sat on a meeting for this grant and was excited to learn that it is available to those applying for the LCHIP grant, can be combined with the funds from an LCHIP grant for the same project and that attendees stated that those applying for both increased their likelihood of getting both grants. The Moose Plate grant only goes up to \$10,000 but it is not a matching grant so those funds would augment any grant we receive or our own Heritage Fund monies applied to a project. It cannot just be added to the fund, but must be applied to a project. Schwarz also sat on a NH Preservation Alliance meeting entitled "Getting to Yes". She learned there that it is greatly helpful to have itemized lists on building projects needed. States she did find an itemized list in the CP Williams report that though it is outdated at this point could give us some information on the direction we should be going. During the meeting she learned that these reports have to be less than 5 years old to qualify for the grant. Schwarz states that attending this meeting told her that we need to step back and formulate a plan for the phased projects instead of just plucking items out of the report that we can afford.

Baker asked if they discussed the 1776 Grant and Schwarz said no, that is a separate program and they will be discussing that at a separate time. Schwarz also states that during that meeting they did say that they will be in touch with attendees to see how they might be of assistance. Schwarz states if she could get them to come to a meeting she thinks it would be helpful, but if not she will ask if there are funds available to help with the planning.

Certified Local Government: Baker asks about the resumes required for the application. Schwarz states she is missing one from Berry and states we are short one regular member and we do need to have a full panel before we can move forward with the application. She states she's not sure that we need one from Berry because he is considered the Selectmen's Rep, but it wouldn't hurt to have it, especially with his very qualified resume. Berry states he will get something together and send it to Schwarz prior to the next meeting.

Historic Resource List: Billow has updated the list with some additional properties. Baker states he's sorry Fimbel isn't present at this meeting because she is a valuable resource for this project in particular. Schwarz states she has tried to reach out and make sure everything is ok since she's missed a couple meetings at this point. She suggests that Baker should reach out as the Chair and also check in.

Fundraising: Schwarz reports that Wilson and Morison were not present at the meeting that the Fundraising Subcommittee was formed, so she describes the function of the subcommittee. She states she would like to see one more person on that committee if either of them could contribute time and energy to it. Schwarz recaps the Valentine's Day Raffle which was held at the General Store and garnered \$565 for the Heritage Fund with prizes donated from 3 local businesses and Lindt Chocolate. The prizes were all donated, so 100% of the funds collected were added to the Heritage Fund. One of the winners Sarah Beth Ross is present at today's meeting and is interested to see what we do as a commission.

Schwarz then emailed Kimberly Sarfde of the Mont Vernon Village School to report our first fundraiser's success and begin collaboration on the walk that we hope to do with the school. Schwarz hopes to be able to hold this event in April/May so it can be held outdoors comfortably.

Lamson Farm Day: Schwarz would like to start working on a collaboration with the organizers (provided this event is able to go forward) and hold a "Crafting on the Porch" fundraiser. At the last event Schwarz and some others were on the porch of Lamson Farm crafting "old" projects like quilting and felting, and she'd like to perhaps continue with this project but add a silent auction or something with products from the Mont Vernon Artisans since we were not able to put something together for Christmas time last year.

Berry asks if Schwarz has heard anything back regarding the banner and she says she has not as yet.

Other Business:

Baker compliments Schwarz on the Facebook promotion during the Valentine's Day Raffle.

Baker asks about the Meeting Minutes posted on the town website. Schwarz responds that she has learned that the minutes are only supposed to be posted for one year as the website just can't handle that much information, and all records prior should be stored and made available by the Secretary of the entity in question.

Schwarz states that both herself and Berry are in need of reappointment as their terms end in 2021. Asks Berry if we can add this to the Selectmen's meeting schedule for Monday and Berry states they are on the schedule. Schwarz also asks about Officer voting. Is this something we should continue onto in March or with the Town Meeting being moved to a later date should it coincide with that? Berry says Laurie Brown is looking into it.

Baker recognizes community member Sarah Beth Ross. Sarah Beth wonders if we have had a chance to coordinate with the library. She is not a Facebook user, so she happened upon the raffle by chance while going into the General Store. She suggests the results could have been better with more widespread exposure. Schwarz states that no, she has not spoken to the library about this as yet, and she had had the thought that if they had had more time she would have liked to promote the project through the Mont Vernon Flyer and other local sources. She states it was posted in the Post Office, Town Hall and on Facebook as well as the General Store. She states that this project was planned very quickly and really was "go" basically from day 3, but that she really wants to put forth an effort to plan new projects on a much longer timeframe so they can be promoted properly. Berry asks how many tickets were sold and Schwarz responds with roughly 45. Wilson asks was there an option to purchase tickets without having to go into the store? Schwarz says no, it was discussed and Schwarz contacted the Town Hall. We do not have a way to accept credit cards at this time, and it would be a conflict of interest for any member to have access to the Town's bank accounts to set something up. Wilson states that the ability to take credit cards would really be beneficial. He said he would be interested in helping out with getting credit card processing. Schwarz suggests that if there were a processing system in place items could be specified and a statement sent to the Town monthly showing what dollar amounts should be attributed to each account item for easy bookkeeping. Baker asks Wilson if he would like to be invited to the next meeting of the Fundraising Subcommittee, Wilson states sure. Berry asks Schwarz and Wilson to get the information that is needed so Berry can present to the Board of Selectmen.

Schwarz asks Ross if she would like to attend future meetings of the Heritage Commission. Ross states yes. Schwarz explains the process for appointment if she is interested in going forward with joining the Commission. Baker asks Ross what her interest is in preservation. Ross states that she has ties to Mont Vernon through her family Betty and Alton Ryder. She said she grew up with her family kind of embedded in the history of Mont Vernon.

Meeting Minutes:

Berry motions to accept the minutes as written, second by Billow. All in favor, no further discussion, motion passed.

Berry motions to adjourn

Meeting Adjourned: 8:28pm

Next meeting: March 11, 2021

Respectfully Submitted,

Rebecca Schwarz

Secretary