

GWC Meeting Minutes  
Wed. Nov. 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017

In Attendance: Melanie Riddle, Amanda Forbes, Julie Wolcott, Nance Shaw  
Called to Order: 11:12  
No Agenda, used the last one as a template  
No Visitors

**Grant Updates (Grants having being awarded and in process of being implemented):**

- Vermont Community Foundation (Community Center) - \$2000 for expansion of gardens, patio by pizza oven, fruits/berries, apple trees.
- RiseVT (community Center): \$3000 for equipment and supplies for processing food at the Center for distribution to food shelf, senior meals, kids' programs, etc.
- Vermont Arts Council (Meeting House on the Green) \$30,000 for new outdoor terrace with wheelchair accessibility. (50/50 match, ½ match can be in-kind, labor and/or materials. The building team is working with Jim Cameron, architects from Essex Jct, and local contractors to schedule work for first thing in the spring.)
- Salt and Sand Grant – Ready for bids after the holidays, construction in the spring.
- Sidewalks – slow-going, bouncing back and forth between town and state. Southern side now switched to north side, plans have been revised, sent back to state for review. They're saying spring, but we're doubtful.
- United Way – We've submitted a letter of intent from School, Library and Community Center, requesting 30K. Purpose: to provide meaningful, year-round, fun and educational food-related experiences for all, but especially for at-risk kids during out-of-school times, to aid working families and to enrich the lives of the community as a whole. We'll hear in December whether or not they'd like us to submit full proposal, due Feb. 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Recreation Trail Maintenance – Sheldon Hydroplant offered labor, sent over 15 guys who weeded and added new gravel to the existing trail around school grounds (\$500-1000 gravel). Julie mentioned Ben and Jerry's also has work crews available to help with civic projects. (Stone patio at Community Center?)

**In the Pipeline (working on it, or haven't heard yet):**

- Interconnection Grant – 2 computers (library and community center). Should hear in mid-November.

- Building Communities Grant – not available anymore, but Melanie has an application ready to go – for picnic tables and playground upgrades – for next round.
- Wyndham Foundation – Community Center – a grant to help sustain and grow the Senior Program at the Center. Money would be used for increasing Candie's hours, buying more local, healthy foods, offering regular after-lunch activities for seniors, and creating a network of drivers for transporting seniors to/from meals and activities.
- USDA Farm to School/Farm to Daycare Grants: School is going for the \$1000 milk cooler equipment grant. New Daycare may do the same, but not sure.
- Whole Kids Foundation Grant (Community Center) – more garden development for food and education at the Center.

### **Wish List:**

- Pavillion in Fairfield on the green somewhere in front of the library, that area. There have been similar wishes expressed from folks in East Fairfield.
- Economic Development: Ideas for Small Businesses to improve the tax base and to boost local employment.
  - Senior Housing – new construction or make use of vacant houses for smaller group homes? Napoli House? Tatreault's? Common School?
  - Town looking to lease trees in town forest to sugar makers. Only one inquiry so far.
  - Old town office building has been rented to Sheila Boomhower for jewelry business and classes.
  - Master Trails (on old business, moved to wish list) – a connecting trail from Fairfield Center to LVRT. Talk to Jim Smith about possibly modifying road for bike and walking path. Invite Jane Williams to report on LVRT occasionally.
  - Think about overall Village Improvement for East Fairfield. What would this look like? Sidewalks? Burying electrical lines? Trees planted? Traffic calming, etc. Is there interest in this subject? Community meeting to brainstorm?

### **To Do:**

- Find more representatives to join GWC. Julie will talk to Jaime from Outdoor Classroom. Becky Cassel interested if we could hold meetings in the afternoon rather than mornings.
- For next meeting (sometime in February): review GWC protocol and priorities, and be prepared to give feedback.