

GWC Minutes
August 7th, 2017

Call to order: 6:10pm

In Attendance: Nance Shaw, Amanda Forbes, Julie Wolcott, Melanie Riddle, Sarah Montgomery

Approval of agenda: SM, AM

Approval of previous meeting minutes:

Grant Updates (grants that are being implemented):

- **United Way:** Was level funded for \$8,000 for current year. Community center received a check for \$4,000 recently. Next check for \$4,000 will be received in January and will go to the library. The application process for the next round of grants begins on Sept. 22nd. The full application is due on Feb. 1st. Julie thinks that the school would be interested in joining us in this application. Interested members will meet on Tuesday, Aug. 22nd at 2pm to further discuss how we want to frame this application.
- **Salt and Sand Shed.** In process of finalizing design. Construction should happen this spring.
- **Sidewalk Grant.** Just had a public meeting last week that was well attended by the people that it will affect. There was an overall positive reaction. Construction in Fairfield should start in the spring. There is an existing study for East Fairfield, but that project is not included in this grant. It is something that we could apply for grant funds for in the future.
- **Merchants Bank Foundation.** Was used for fridge, freezers, and floors at the community center. The remainder was to buy food for the food shelf. This is complete and can be removed from agenda.
- **Pond/Beach.** Finishing up with signage and line painting and project will be complete. Can be moved to parking lot of next agenda.
- **RiseVT Grant for community center.** Applied for 5,000 and received 3,000. Will use for kitchen/ cooking supplies.
- **Vermont Art's Council Grant.** \$30,000 received for redoing the entrance of the meeting house to include an ADA ramp and a terrace. Hoping that they can complete the project for \$60,000 with the \$30,000 match. Have some donors interested in helping with the project.

Outstanding Grants (grants that are in the application process):

- **Vermont Community Foundation, Small and Inspiring grants.** Would like to continue to develop green area outside of community center where the pizza oven and gardens are. Would like to add berry bushes and paving. This grant would be for \$2,500. Melanie is also looking into other options for grants for this project including the Windham Foundation (5-10k) and Perrigo Company Charitable Foundation.
- **Recreation Grants.** For 10 picnic tables throughout Fairfield. Melanie would like us to write recommendation letters for the different sites to ask for the picnic tables. We could also add a request for funds for wood chips to this grant for playground at community center. This grant is a 50/50 match. The recreation committee might have money that can be used for this match.

Wish List:

- Pavilion - Doesn't seem possible at this point if a grant requires a match.
 - Side discussion: Franklin County boy scouts are looking for a major project that they can work on. There is a grant available for bee hives (through the honeybee conservancy) and the school is working on creating a pollinator garden in honor of Grady Howrigan. Maybe this grant could be used towards that project.
- New Library Computers/ Teen room furniture: Sarah is working on a technology plan for library. Inner Connections grant is coming up again with application on Sept. 1st.
- Field Space for ball fields. Melanie is working on connecting with someone who will be able to give her more information about the needs for this.
- Economic Development. What can be done to bring more business/ low income housing stability to Fairfield? Esden's recently sold to someone who does printing for announcements. State of Vermont Commerce of Community and Development might have a grant that could embody some of our community development needs. Deadline for this year is August 8th, but that is something we could look at for next year. We could also use a dedicated space in Fairfield for DCF family meetings.
- Updated Project List
- More representation at GWC meetings. Invite Charlie Thomas as a member of the selectboard. Becky Cassel as a member of the community center.
- Recreation trail maintenance. How do we stop it from growing in? There was a similar discussion about the new sidewalk that is being built. Youth Corps put that in. Maybe we can reach out to them to ask them come and maintain it. Could possibly also be something for the recreation grant.
- Playground for Preschoolers. Amanda will check in with Morgan Hale to see if this is something she is interested in.
- Cemeteries. Always looking for cemetery people and money. Someone to coordinate a survey of our cemeteries. Vermont Cemetery Association - link to any resources?

Old Business (Follow-Up):

Parking Lot:

- School Kit-gym-teria Update - Remove from agenda.
- Master Trails - Discussion about having some sort of loop connecting to the Rail Trail. Article in Messenger this evening about where Fairfield is on the timeline for the rail trail project.
- School Solar - Remove from agenda.
- LVRT - see master trails.
- Safe Routes To School Infrastructure Projects. This was combined with the sidewalk project.

New Business:

- Reapplying for United Way Grant. Select committee members will meet on August 22nd to follow up on this.
- AF made motion to add Nance Shaw and Julie Wolcott to the Grant Writing Committee. SM seconded. Both have been added as members of our committee.

- Grant Watch membership renewal: Melanie thought this subscription was helpful to find new grants that are not on an annual cycle. Unanimous vote to renew this for another year.
- Grant Writing Committee Protocol. If one committee member has an idea for a grant it should be brought to the whole committee first. If a match is required, selectboard approval is required.
- Financial Update: Balance of \$29,000 in GWC fund. Has been being used some for Grant Writers salary. Participating entities have not contributed to this fund for the past two years.

Agenda items for next meeting:

- Financial Update

Next Meeting:

Nov. 6th, 6pm

Meeting adjourned: 7:34pm