

ENOSBURG BUSINESS INITIATIVE

March 1, 2018 Minutes

Attendance: Jim Cameron, Andre & Jeannie Viens, Pierre Letourneau, Stacy Carpenter, Dinny Hawksworth, Ward Heneveld, Suzi Hull-Parent, David Tryhorne, Greta Brunswick, Linda Depatie, Heather Murphy, Chris Casavant, Dean and Angie Wright, Walter Scott, Sandy Ferland, John Dasaro, Shawna Lovelette, Jennifer Bright, Pat Hayes

- **Greta Announces the Better Connections Grant – We are thrilled that we received the Grant!!!**
- 50/50 Match available for **Northern Borders Grant** (substantial money) could be used for a Welcome Center 3/15/18 required pre-meeting for Grant may be at Morrystown Town Office.
- **May Bike Month** – The project kickoff for the Grant is a bike month event as written in the application. Stacey Carpenter has been working with RISE VT to get this done. Stacey shared a bike month agenda: Dates, Times and Locations to be determined or confirmed
 - Saturday May 5 or Sunday May 6 (TBD time/location) Tune up/Community Bike Swap to coincide with Green Up Day/Beautification Day in Enosburg
 - Friday May 11 Bike to Work Day, Lunch Bide ride on MRVT
 - Sunday May 13 Family Bike ride on the MVRT
 - Friday May 18 Walk/Bike to school day, Community dinner hosted by EES
 - Month of May Bike BINGO to include local events with incentives.
- **Town/Village/School Meeting Preps.**
 - Town Meeting – 3/6 10 a.m. Article 4, Important to get the 2/3rds approval to pass a Tax Stabilization policy so that the select board can enter into these agreements to promote business and new development and improvement. Swanton just did it and St. Albans does as well. Cost sharing regarding improvements should be introduced.
 - Village Meeting – 3/13 (Sandy and Jennifer)
 - School Meeting – 3/20 Evening meeting.
- **Announcements:**
 - Opera House opens up on the 24th of March with an Irish Band.
 - Update on the Sidewalk Project meeting shared with the general group.
 - 3/14 Regional Recreation Meeting, budget has been developed (Chip and Erick Johnson) to develop and run the regional calendar. 5:30 Swanton Village Complex. Also, there will be some focus group work, networking with other rec groups and economic revitalization will be another group.
 - Group met with school board, Jim is on the agenda to attend a staff meeting regarding engagement, what we are doing, etc. How can we collaborate.
 - March 9th there will be a potluck dinner at school regarding their community learning project. In April the kids who are doing a 3D project on the Quincy, Ward hopes to follow it up with a historical marker.
 - June 8th Annual meeting of Preservation Trust of VT, conference in Bristol, bringing in a national speaker. Might be a good opportunity to attend.

- **Welcome Center** - To summarize the process we have brainstormed location ideas, created pros and cons for each location and through a number of meetings, research and discussion narrowed the list down to a primary and 2 follow up locations, created a dream list of amenities, and did a site visit of the first choice. At the last meeting there was much discussion about the actual value of the structure, the condition of the structure and many opinions ranging from buying to leasing, renovating to new build. This evening a quick question was asked of the carpenters in the room (3) and the consensus was new build. The economic development board has a mission to economic development. They have the capacity to go after the Northern Borders Grant. Greta will help with this. If by the end of March, we have a general plan and get it to Greta we could try for the Northern Borders Grant. The matches in the grant can be in-kind. Suzi had a call into the DOT properties person to talk about the lease, no return call yet. A few comp. properties were shared to look at property value and the suggestion to pay the money for an appraisal might be money well spent. That decision was not made. Discussion around making sure this building would not be over engineered and to engage the public in the actual hands on work and donations to truly make this a community project. We need to be dedicated to prudent use of the money and donations. A general request without hard meeting dates or commitment was to get numbers on the building and amenities by the end of March.

Next planning meeting 3/8 8:30 am, Sandy Ferland will announce the location.

Next regular meeting 3/15 5:30-7:00 at the Emergency Services Building.