

Minutes for the Vershire Town Center Committee Meeting

October 18th, 2021

Reva called the meeting to order at 7:15 PM. In attendance were Ken, Nick, Nicole, Kareen and Susanne.

Reva reported on the recent Selectboard Meeting. The area behind the building has been cleared and mowed, but the weather has been too wet to complete the drainage ditch digging. Allie will ask Gary Thrasher to put it on his schedule. The router doesn't need to be replaced but will need to be rebooted occasionally. The town is applying for a grant for paving the Town Center parking lot and the paving of the Town Office. No date has been set for that work.

Susanne still needs to contact Didi to introduce the VTCC committee and ask if there's anything she needs or can recommend for keeping the building clean. Susanne will review the list on the wall of the kitchen rules and recommend any changes. The inventory of the kitchen equipment and appliances is still in progress.

Reva suggested that the 2 doors, vermiculite, games, screen and dehumidifier should be brought to recycle to see if anyone would take the items for free. Nick mentioned that the dehumidifier might be useful at the Mountain School.

There is one picnic table bench that needs repair. Nick will follow-up. He will also put together a plan to rotate out 2 tables per year and replace with new as part of our budget request.

The Book Club and the Writers Club will be organized by the Vershare library.

Food shelf: The produce donated to the food shelf that won't keep until the following week, needs to be distributed or sent to the compost at the recycle center. Susanne will speak with Reva after the meeting to talk about how to manage a table for this food at the recycle center.

Water quality at the TC building. Gene has mentioned having the tank 'shocked' to try to mitigate the sulphur build up in the hot water tank. Gene recommended that the hot water (and the furnace) be turned on at least 10 minutes before an event and that the hot water tap be left slightly running until the sulphur smell had been reduced. Reva will follow-up with Gene to see if the board has a plan to clean or 'shock' the water tank.

Nick has been unable to get a copy of the VTC budget so Reva will pick that up. We need to put in a budget request by January so the VTCC needs to start working on our request at the November meeting.

Historical society: Reva attended the Historical society meeting. They were unable to join the Vershare Fall Festival this year. It was unclear if they are still planning to place a Christmas tree at the Town Center. As their Committee is so small, for the time being, Reva will keep attending meetings rather than getting one of them to come to ours.

Rec committee update:

Vershire was not selected for the recently submitted LOI. There will be a meeting in January to review and discuss why the grant request failed.

The LOI was intended to cover costs for a Bridge, Skating Rink, Pavilion for the sports field and an annex for equipment storage. David Hooke's old plan for an annex to the bread over may have been voted on in the past under different selectboard members. There has to be a search of the minutes to determine this before the discussion can move forward. There are two new members to the selectboard and the review of the plan has been scheduled for the next meeting. In the meantime, Ken will work with the board to arrange some storage for rec equipment and some protection for the picnic tables.

Ken discussed the upcoming Food Truck event on Thursday. This will be the last one of the season. The water spigot used by the Food Truck has been repaired. There are still plans for a winter event sponsored by the Rec committee. Vershare's Snow-Shoe-A-Thon is still scheduled for this winter.

Plans for the ice rink have progressed. The rec committee has contacted a company to provide the brackets, liner, etc. for the rink. They plan is for a 40 x 60 or 40 x 70 rink near the third base of the existing softball field. The rec committee has spoken to representatives from Elizabeth Park about the rink. They will also contact Home Depot for a donation of the lumbar needed to build the rink's frame. Lise from the rec committee is looking into donations for the rink including donations of skates.

There will need to be storage available in the spring for the brackets, lining and lumbar for the ice rink.

The neighboring schools should be invited to use the ice rink and join the rec committee's Christmas event when it's scheduled.

Rental contract for VTCC

Nicole reviewed the current rental contract for VTCC.

One of the items distinguishes a public vs private event at TCC. Question arose about how to notify for a public event. Reva will check with the board for the current recommendations.

Public events organized by the town and its committees that are free will not be charged.

Public events that are not sponsored by the town are currently charged \$100 refundable deposit and \$100 fee non-refundable.

Private events are charged \$100 refundable deposit and \$100 fee (non-refundable).

Events serving alcohol have their own rules.

Two suggestions were discussed to help lower the fee for the Private events.

- Rather than a fixed fee the charge could be based on a percentage of the overall charge. This would allow smaller private groups to plan their fee structure to cover the costs. The \$100.00 deposit and the insurance requirement would continue as is.
- If the private event will be a continuing event and is considered to be an event that is beneficial to the Town i.e. a yoga class or a lecture series, a first meeting could be treated as a public event without charge and if the organizer and the board agree can then continue at a percentage based on attendance.

Reva will forward the updated document to Gene and attend the next Selectboard meeting and discuss the rental proposals and request again information about the VTC budget.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:35 PM Minutes by Susanne Gauthier