

Vershire Town Center Committee Meeting
January 17, 2022

In Attendance: Reva Seybolt, Nicole White-Fogarty, Suzanne Gaitier, Ken Bushey, Caro Bick, Neil Hochstedler.

The meeting started with Reva motioning that the minutes from November 29 be accepted and Suzanne seconded the motion.

Neil spoke about his research and findings for doing an energy audit on two town buildings (The Town Center and the Town Offices) and The Fire and Rescue building. The quote he got was \$7500.00. There was a discussion about how the town and the Fire department would have to work out the cost between them.

He spoke with Jen ___ and she felt that the town should not move forward yet with the audit because Efficiency Vermont wants to update buildings that need work NOW and that the Town Center building was in good shape.

Neil stated that the Energy Committee wants the town to move away from Petroleum fuels, but that they will wait for the propane furnace to fail before they replace it. He also mentioned that the walls are filled with formaldehyde foam and that it is known to fail. We will need a special licensed company to remove Urea Foam. It is estimated that it would cost around \$30,000.00 to remove it. Jen said that we should look for Lawsuits to get \$ to remove the Urea.

Reva asked Neil if the Energy Committee was asking the town for money to perform the audits. Perhaps ARPA could help? David Hooke is floating a proposal to get the audits done. Neil was excused.

Reva reported on Vershare. She said the board has lost half of its members. Justin, Eleanor, Aaron and Karen are who is left.

Vershare is planning on having their Snow-Shoe-athon on the first weekend in March.

Reva went over our list of desires for the building and explained that the select board wants us to individualize each warrant specifically.

Nicole reported that she spoke with Valley Floors who provided her with proposals. The estimate for the upstairs floor, including resetting nails and refinishing is \$5208.75 The estimate for replacing the carpet on the stage is \$3114.10.

Reva pointed out that we could do the main floor now and the stage later.

The carpet downstairs (1500 sq ft) appears to be in good shape but could use a good cleaning and the estimate for that is \$600.00

Nick was not able to get in touch with Malcolm Ward to investigate the repairs to the foundation skirt.

Suzanne explored a plethora of kitchen companies and found that very few were interested in renovating a commercial kitchen, but she did find one. Cabinets, Kitchens, and Counters in Hanover offered to take a look at the kitchen for \$750.00 and then draw up a design. State inspections would be required by the Vermont Dept. of Health and Safety.

Reva wants information on how often the kitchen is actually used. She will ask Gene. Also we want to think about what the kitchen will be used for. ?

Nicole would like to ask Gene about our policy with food. Can we bring food in to cook or are we just having pot luck meals. Are we already breaking the law?

On that note: what does Vershare do about their kitchen?

At one point we had Deb and Jean serving a Senior lunch and a fellow came in and did some cooking for that.

Suzanne will contact Debra and make a list of uses for the kitchen.

We agreed not to put the kitchen renovation on our list of things we want to accomplish at this time.

Reva posted a query about interest from townspeople about the pavillion, the storage shed and other ideas for the property and got no response.

Nicole stated that we need to have events to spark people interest. She mentioned that we need to work on and polish the rental agreement.

Reva motioned that we concentrate on getting the carpet downstairs cleaned, the floor upstairs usable and that we get in touch with Malcolm about the foundation. Once we get the go ahead for these we will present the articles to the Select Board.

Caro seconded it.

Reva brought up the need for storage. Ken said that the skates were being respectfully borrowed and nothing was vandalized or stolen. We all believe there is a need for storage. Suzanne suggested that we come up with 'next steps' on the storage shed. We need a list of what exactly needs to be stored. We talked about sharing the space with Vershare. Reva volunteered to go to the Select Board meeting and inquire what we need to do to get that ball rolling.

Reva reminded us that we talked in July about regular cleaning and maintenance, hanging the big painting, quilts, and making the downstairs bathrooms nicer.

Reva brought up our web page and what we want it to look like. Suzanne broke it down to Past Present and Future. We want a history of the building, our rental agreement, a road map of our page and a calendar of events. Suzanne will design it and we will approve it.

We had a discussion about what we want to do to get people to come out. Ken mentioned that the Rec Committee is talking about horse shoe pits and a corn hole league. They are also planning an Easter Egg Hunt.

We had some nice responses to our plea for what people would like to see as events. Finding local musicians to play once a month in the warmer months is something we want to explore, along with Pizza night and BarB Que and chili competitions. To raise money we could have an entry fee and offer prizes.

Suzanne is donating an outdoor thermometer to the skating rink so people can check in about whether or not it is too warm to skate.

Reva reiterated that she will go to the SB meeting and follow up with Nick re the foundation skirt, she will take responsibility for hanging the painting and quilts. Suzanne moved to adjourn and Reva seconded it.