

**CASTLETON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ECONOMIC
REVITALIZATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**

Thursday, February 16, 2023

**Castleton Fire Department
and ZOOM**

Meeting Recording:

Those in attendance included: Committee Members, Mary McIntyre, Zak Holzworth, Ted Molnar, Petrina teRiele

Others present by Zoom included: Martha Clifford, Bo Elliot Ramos, Allison Harvey, Recording Secretary

M. McIntyre called the meeting to order at 6:31 P.M.

Approve Agenda

Z. Holzworth made a motion to approve the agenda as posted. P. teRiele seconded. T. Molnar stated he would like to add an item of support the students, faculty and Town of Castleton in getting the administration of Castleton University to reverse their decision to close the University Library to New Business. M. McIntyre stated she would like to add Broadband Discussion and Welcome Wagon Discussion to New Business. **All voted in favor of the amended Agenda. So voted.**

Approval of Minutes of January 19, 2023.

Z. Holzworth made a motion to approve the minutes of January 19, 2023. T. Molnar seconded.

Page 1 – last two lines *BE Elliott* should be changed to *BE Ramos*.

Page 2 – first line of the third paragraph *Has calculated* should be replaced with *BE Ramos has calculated*.

Page 2 - sixth paragraph, end of second line should read *presented; however*, fifth line should read *same thing; wording may be a problem M. Clifford stated M. Jones is*.

Page 2 – last paragraph, first line should read *Clifford*; however, fourth line should read *Hubbardton, as well as any revenues from the Recreation Commission*. Seventh line should read *so this could get complicated*. Eighth line should read *so he can't speak for the rest of the board*.

Page 3 – first line *stated* should be inserted after R. Combs.

Page 3 – third paragraph, second and third sentences should read *R. Combs suggested an email that includes him to the Town Manager, and he is aware that there are four areas in upgrade discussions; Preston Lane, Depot Terrace, Crystal Heights and Creek Road. R. Combs said to sent the email asking M. Jones for details and they will get her an answer*. End of the fourth line should read *got a hold of Kerry Fowler (Fire District #1)*,

All voted in favor. So voted.

Selectboard Update (Dick Combs)

M. McIntyre stated R. Combs is not able to attend the meeting this evening. He indicated to her via text message the Selectboard is getting ready for Town Meeting, the ARPA funds discussion will commence

in early spring; there are a lot of possibilities and a lot of finite funds. She had indicated to him that she had not heard back from him or M. Jones on the sewer studies, and she got no response on that comment.

Recreation Board Update (Bo Elliott Ramos)

BE Ramos stated there are some grants that they are keeping an eye on with submission deadlines approaching. There are some challenges with the grants with the CVS building being listed for sale, but they will focus on recreation and equipment funds. They will be working on the athletic fields as soon as possible and when weather allows. BE Ramos stated they are going to reach out to Rutland Recreation to continue a collaboration with them this year. There will be special upkeep projects with the dug outs coming up as well. There is one dugout that is missing and a lot of repairs are needed on the others.

The CVS building use has been increasing. They have had a lot of people in the building and things are moving forward. Youth basketball will be wrapping up at the end of the month and recreation grades 3-6 softball sign up will start soon. They are going to try to have some open gym nights, after basketball is over. They have started indoor walking, pickle ball and had a successful book fair. They are in the process of setting up walking tours to get people in the building to help with ideas and momentum to get programs going.

The heat at the CVS building has been an issue, had a freeze up and lines broken. That has been repaired, and they discovered there was a problem with the gauge on the tank, so there was no fuel. BE Ramos stated they have also read the building assessment recently and is interested in the diagnostics of the building. The heating system is at about 40% efficiency, and it is difficult to keep the temperature up. Also looks like the doors and windows will need some weather proofing to help with heating costs.

M. McIntyre stated they had a discussion about the stanchions they found for volleyball net and also asked about the stage and it's condition. BE Ramos felt the stage with some clean up is very useable. M. McIntyre suggested maybe a talent show or family feud type of fund raisers using the stage. BE Ramos stated there are a number of chairs that are under the stage that could also be used. M. McIntyre stated she had seen a post on the Front Porch Forum about a pickle ball court being set up at Crystal Beach. M. Clifford stated she replied to that post, there is a court and equipment at the Beach and available for use by anyone who requests it.

Discussion on an open gym being offered, and how it would be set up, as there is a school break next week. BE Ramos stated they could supervise next week but they would probably need to get someone else with a background check to supervise in the future.

M. McIntyre stated from attending a recreation meeting she understands there are concerns about kids crossing the railroad tracks from the t-ball field. M. Clifford stated that they put a porta potti on the t-ball field side of the tracks and the only time the kids should be crossing the tracks is to leave with adults. M. Clifford stated in the past they have put the porta potties at the Hydeville Field, the Elementary School Field and the T-Ball Field.

M. Clifford stated they are getting their media/flyer together for the vote on March 7th about the CVS ballot item. She is also putting posts on the Front Porch Forum a few times a week to try to gain support for the yes votes on the ballot item.

M. McIntyre stated Steve Brown built the dug outs at the Hydeville field. Discussion on the fields and whether the Town is going to be supporting the upkeep of them.

Business Meeting Follow Ups

Broader Feedback/Survey – Beth Murphy/Zack Holzworth/Bo Elliot Ramos

M. McIntyre stated a survey has been put together with the help of Z. Holzworth and BE Ramos. It has been provided to and been reviewed by members of the CDERAC. Discussion was held on suggested edits. It has not been sent out yet but should be after edits are made and email addresses of local businesses have been obtained since members present are ok with the format.

Marketing (Contact Lyle Jepson/Olivia Lyons)– Ted Molnar

T. Molnar stated he met with Lyle and Olivia this week and came away very optimistic. The Town has already been included in their marketing plan, and it was suggested that the Town create a Facebook page as well as Instagram. It was felt there was already a Facebook page. T. Molnar felt they need to find a focus, such as tourism or the younger generation for example. It was also recommended that the Town needs to have a director of marketing. Discussion held on the marketing of the Town and the fact that the University is willing to help with the marketing. It was felt the video CDERAC recently prepared and any available photos be sent to the University to see if they are of a good enough quality for them to use.

Geo Fencing – Bo Elliott

Z. Holzworth doesn't feel that Geo Fencing is going to work. It is more for local competition of businesses. There would need to be a target to place an ad, and he questioned where would that be. Typically, it would be within one square mile or multiple buildings in close proximity. It is more geared toward larger cities, ie: New York City. Discussion was held on social media and geo fencing and if it would be beneficial as well as finding a focus for the Town and it's advertising. M. McIntyre asked if T. Molnar, Z. Holzworth and BE Ramos should collaborate on this further and bring any new information to the next meeting.

CU Content Lab – Martha Clifford

M. Clifford has enlisted T. Molnar to assist with contact, but they still have not been able to get a response from the Lab.

Water & Sewer – Mary McIntyre

M. McIntyre stated no progress has been made on this, no plans, studies or updates have been produced that she would be able to review.

Signage - Mary McIntyre

M. McIntyre stated she has reached out to E. Splatt and has not gotten any response from him and has not gotten anywhere with Agency of Transportation either.

Bike Extravaganza – Ted Molnar

T. Molnar stated he met with BE Ramos and they are going to meet with the Town Manager to see if the Town would be in agreement with the plan they are putting together and if the Town would help support it.

ARPA Grant – Petie TeRiele

P. teRiele stated she attended a webinar on grant writing and there is a short deadline. She would be willing to write a grant with some assistance from the Town. She will do the best she can to apply for a crosswalk grant on Creek Road and Main Street for the Town. BE Ramos stated they would like to see some handicapped accessibility for handicapped access for the town athletic fields as well.

New Business

Support of Student/Faculty and Town of Castleton in Getting Administration of Castleton University to reverse the Decision of close the Castleton University Library

T. Molnar stated the Administration of the Vermont Universities have decided they will close all physical libraries. There is a lot of opposition out there and he would ask the CDERAC to consider supporting the opposition to this decision. They have also decided to switch the sport affiliation of the University, which will affect the draw to the University as well, thus reducing enrollment and the campus potentially being shut down in some years down the road. M. McIntyre will follow up with the Town Manager to see if they should try to have Selectboard support and if a letter from the Selectboard would make a stronger statement.

Broadband

T. Molnar has connected with T. Munks on the upgrading of the broadband. There is about 10 million dollars out there to use for this, but it doesn't look like it will be this year.

Welcome Wagon

M. McIntyre has put together ten Welcome bags and she has used up most of the donated resources they were given, more will need to be solicited. They are a bit behind delivering bags recently but will get to them when the weather is better.

8:18 pm Meeting Adjourned

Z. Holzworth made a motion to adjourn. T. Molnar seconded. All voted in favor. So voted.

Respectfully Submitted

Allison Harvey, Recording Secretary