

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

Thursday, February 17, 2022

**Castleton Town Office
and ZOOM**

Those in attendance included: Mary McIntyre, Zack Holzworth, Petrina teRiele, Ted Molnar, Christina Ryan Committee Members, Martha Molnar, Guest

Others present by Zoom included: Allison Harvey, Recording Secretary, Richard Combs, Martha Clifford, Michael Jones, Tim Munks

M. McIntyre called the meeting to order at 6:32 P.M.

Minutes of Meeting – January 20, 2022

R. Combs made a motion to approve the minutes of January 20, 2022 as presented. Z. Holzworth seconded. All voted in favor. So voted.

Approval of Agenda

R. Combs made a motion to approve the agenda. Z. Holzworth seconded. All voted in favor. So voted.

Guest – Martha Molnar – Castleton Bridges - River Run Project

Resident for 14 years. Beautiful river that doesn't really get seen and has no access. Has spoken to a few people, are interested in creating an access. Two phase program, a viewing spot, second is a walking trail. There are several sites along the river that are historical pertaining to industry. A natural path as well as a historical walk to be enjoyed. Town owns ball fields of north road, at the end, can just about see the river, would be more viewable if cut out about 100' of brush. M. McIntyre and M. Clifford interjected that the far end of the ball field is not owned by the town but has been given permission by landowner to use the land. Looking into a bench to be placed along the riverbank. Trail is a bit more complicated. Three different landowners, one is town, Taggart family and third is an out of state resident. Will be a simple walking path, no pavement, will start where rail trail ends in the village. No insurance is needed, as state of Vermont indicated if there's no charge to use the trail, do not need insurance. Will need to contact a trail designer, will consult with slate valley trails, maintenance will need to be considered, and look into grants for funds for development and maintenance.

C. Ryan asked if a designer reached out to. M. Molnar mentioned Drew Bentley. M. McIntyre suggested Joe Doran and his wife who were very active in historical society. M. Clifford stated she has noticed a number of large trees in the river, not sure if it would impede the plan. R. Combs stated the State controls the waterway exclusively, and do not want anyone to remove trees falling into the river, is fish habitat. Would like to invite a few members of the Committee to participate and join in presenting to Town and Board of Selectmen. M. McIntyre explained will take under advisement and move forward from there.

M. Molnar also coordinates the Science Pub. Is a community event, 10th year, sponsored by Castleton Library. She gets 5-6 scientists a year to come and present research they are working on. Is a very popular program, have had many people in attendance. She invited for upcoming Sunday, March 6. Is first Sunday of every month from November to April, except for January.

Selectboard Updates – Dick Combs

R. Combs, have ordered new loader, delivered in 3 months or so.

Grant award for sidewalk project for Castleton Corners to parson hill, should be able to put out to bid end of march, going through state process now. Between grant and reserves, cost is covered, engineering or permitting delays only thing that could hold it up, but not anticipated to be held up and should be done this year

Scoping study, public meeting for the project is Monday, connecting Sand Hill to park and ride and south to college via South Street.

M. McIntyre, on sidewalk projects, asked if anything on Gilberts down to lake. R. Combs is on radar, would like to connect park and ride to south end of Lake Bomoseen, is a very long-term agenda, but doing one thing at a time with what have started.

M. McIntyre, under CVS topic, she has not seen that estimate putout publicly as far as maintenance. R. Combs stated last meeting, nothing glaring as far as routine maintenance, there is only the roof, underground tank and furnace down the road, 5 or more years. M. McIntyre stated she has heard on the street that there is large expense, and they should get the report out to the public, so they are well educated. R. Combs indicated he would get to the Town Manager to ask him to disseminate the estimate and get it out to the public.

Z. Holzworth asked what town match was for the sidewalk. R. Combs was \$84,000.

Recreation Board Update -Martha Clifford

M. Clifford stated in a holding pattern until first of March. Putting out a lot of information on the request and need for a full-time recreation director. Has been getting much more positive feedback than negative. M. McIntyre suggested maybe reaching out to past recreation members to put out statements or recommendations for the public to read. T. Molnar suggested Frank Johnson being contacted as well.

M. Clifford have done a letter of intent for summer adventure camp grant. Have to wait until after the vote to determine where can be held. May have options of CVS in mornings and Crystal Beach in afternoon. C. Ryan mentioned a post card option for reaching out to public, but had heard negative feedback, but she would like to use the same information on the Facebook page.

Directory/Town Website Update – Christina Ryan

C. Ryan stated earlier sent out a mockup of business pages and how could look based off platform town uses to build site, and M. Clifford has given her some feedback, no other yet. Giving a few weeks to get back to her and finalize contact and build pages. Petrina is working on directory, and some interesting questions have come up. Why maintained, why only businesses listed on Secretary of State website, what about the sole proprietors and how to keep it up to date. M. McIntyre explained a brief history of how

came to list, and how extensive the project is to get a complete and accurate list. C. Ryan felt perhaps it was something that the list/pdf document should be maintained by this committee, then would update and submit to someone who has access and permissions on a yearly basis to put onto the Town website. Discussion on the format, how the list is to be developed and who should be on it, as well as how and who maintains the Town's website. T. Molnar felt maintaining the town web site should be addressed with the Board of Selectmen and stress that important to budget and consider budgeting for someone to keep updated. Brief discussion on the Chamber of Commerce and whether should continue to pursue a possible regional Chamber of Commerce.

Recreation Property Exploration – Zack Holzworth & Mike Jones

Z. Holzworth stated Mike Jones met with John Rehlen Monday, they discussed idea of selling, leasing or giving property to the Town by the park and ride that is east side of Town. Mr. Rehlen was to speak with Pam and Wenger and get back to Mr. Jones, he has gotten no response yet. Only other parcel that would make any sense for recreational area would be directly behind town office, but it was stated that the dog park portion of the idea would be less likely to be accepted as it is much closer to residential area. M. McIntyre asked if it was Ron Childs that assisted in planning in past, is an engineer and offers for no charge.

C. Ryan asked if there was a place at the CVS property that could be considered. Brief discussion on the CVS property and between Library and CVS should the property come back to the town. Also discussion on the Town property located near Crystal Beach. Will continue discussion at another meeting and felt should have site visits to get a better understanding of the properties being discussed.

Recommendation Templates – Petrina teRiele

Committee reviewed the Templates and approved of the format. P. teRiele answered questions of what can be used for and whether any changes suggested.

Broadband Update – Tim Munks

T. Munks is not present.

M. McIntyre asked how board felt about using the room they are in for meetings, at the Town Office. Is more user friendly and better size for this committee.

Discuss CDERAC SWOT / Initiatives for 2022, Budget and Bylaws

M. McIntyre stated she shared the budget with everyone. Everyone indicated they had seen the bylaws, but not the budget. Discussion and review on the budget and what could be done with funds remaining in the budget. M. Clifford stated if the stipends are not taken, as they have agreed, they are returned to general budget. M. McIntyre stated M. Jones told her that if they don't take them, it can be earmarked for a certain project. M. McIntyre stated early on SWOT they had decided the Town was not very inviting. She suggested a small size bag, with tri fold with town information listed on it. Last year had 240 some land transfers, and Town Clerk mails out these lists to new owners. Castleton Logo on the bag, a welcome note, magnet with emergency numbers, flashlights are just a few ideas. M. Jones thought it would be an easy sell to include a transfer station or beach pass to get approved. Reach out to businesses in town to

see if would give coupons for discounts for their establishment. Discussion on what else could be put into the bag and quantity to start with.

C. Ryan stated she feels the Castleton Corners needs something to dress it up and make it look nicer. Main Street looks good and inviting, the Corners needs something as well. M. McIntyre also stated they had discussed in the past an informational sign.

M. McIntyre offered to price out if something interested in and others can consider what else to include. T. Molnar questioned the monies that would be left over, and town web site. C. Ryan felt the town website and the list of businesses should be kept separate. If targeting tourism or businesses and trying to recruit people to live in Castleton, it is a totally different scenario. Discussion on cost and whether it would be maintained and by whom. M. McIntyre felt should be pitched to the Board of Selectmen in person. C. Ryan explained some towns have town website, then a visitor/marketing/tourism site, more like a chamber of commerce that is separate. Further discussion on the idea and how it can be presented to the Board of Selectmen. C. Ryan suggested Wix or Weebly for the site and a few mockups of what to present, suggested include other town web sites as examples as well.

M. McIntyre will address bylaws another meeting, and there are membership issues. Will have to work on the bylaws and M. Jones indicated should have 12 members, so need to work on recruiting.

M. McIntyre asked if Committee wanted to do something with a letter for the river run project or wait for M. Molnar to have a presentation.

New Business

M. Jones popped in briefly, had a walk in with interest to serve on the Committee, Angela Woodbury, as ideas and wants to be involved. Informational meeting Monday for sidewalk project.

T. Molnar approached by Mary Kearns, new library director. Would like to join the welcome wagon and wants to revive it. M. McIntyre will reach out.

M. McIntyre thanked everyone for their energy, feels like they are going in the right direction.

Adjourn

T. Molnar made a motion to adjourn at 8:32pm. C. Ryan seconded the motion. All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted

Allison Harvey, Recording Secretary