

CASTLETON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, December 16, 2021

**Castleton Town Office
and ZOOM**

Meeting Recording:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/42q9s9TS3oc9bjQjMG25aWyN-vkkMuODZcxuZgMzgbpUgZrF4yzAfZy8geLbiw.vMOGjUab4zxpFBjp>

Access Passcode: F5%T&JN5

Those in attendance included: Martha Clifford, Richard Combs, Mary McIntyre, Tim Munk, Ted Molnar, Zak Holzworth, Mike Jones, Christina Ryan, Petrina teRiele

Others present by Zoom included: Allison Harvey, Recording Secretary,

M. McIntyre called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

Minutes of Meeting – November 18, 2021

T. Molnar made a motion to approve the minutes of November 18, 2021 as presented. Z. Holzworth seconded. All voted in favor. So voted.

Approval of Agenda

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

M. McIntyre stated that when she accepted the chairman position she expressed she couldn't keep up with various boards, etc and felt it was important to have updates with various boards.

Selectboard Updates

R. Combs stated it was worthy of note that the budget process is underway, included is the budget is a \$1,000 contribution to the RRPC. He and J. Mark have met with Town of Hubbardton and they have agreed to pay a percent of cost of consultation for the CVS assessment being done on 12/20. Town and the school board are each paying 50% of 89% of the cost and the Town of Hubbardton is paying the other 11%. They should have a better idea of the expense of owning that building and are working with town attorney to assist with how to present to voters be better informed of what they are voting on.

It was suggested possible a flow chart that indicates if you vote this, or this, this is what happens. R. Combs stated it is still unclear how the vote will work and they hope to have better idea soon. M. Jones stated Ted Parisi and J. Mark are meeting tomorrow morning. M. Jones also stated they hope to have the assessment by the end of December.

Recreation Board Update

M. Clifford stated they are running the fall youth sports programs, but not any non-sports events however. The budget is in for approval with a full-time rec director in it, there are a few questions the board is asking, such as who the director will report to, the direction they should go with the position and if a space is needed or available for them. Their intent was to have it become a town department and would report to Town manager on a regular basis, but they are not certain what commission's role will be, most likely more advisory and support for director.

T. Molnar asked how much for salary. M. Clifford stated \$41,000 for salary, then benefits, etc., close to \$56,000 total. M. Jones stated J. Mark has suggested putting the new employee position as a separate item on the ballot and have the budget as it was before without the position approved separately. M. Clifford stated some of the increase was also due to a summer camp that got grant funding for 22/23 to continue the camp, and there will be additional offsetting revenues.

M. McIntyre stated she had talked with M. Clifford, at that time she didn't realize what was going on, but that we are all volunteers, and when lose members, lose continuity, which is important. Some projects are pretty big, and when volunteers do these projects, it can be a lot. Brandon has a recreation director/economic development whom she has talked with, and he handles a lot more than that, economic development as well. She would like to keep that in the big picture, as Pittsford is headed in the same way when they get the right person in the rec director position. Further discussion on the position, what it could entail and revenues of the department. M. Jones questioned if went that route, what they saw CDERAC doing. M. McIntyre felt it would be advisory and support the various positions and economic development person. Take some of the pressure off the volunteers, allow them to go to more of the homeowners and businesses for the town, to support their plans and ideals. M. Jones stated in budget were funds to RRPC and CEDAR. He felt possibly some of those funds could be used to keep it local and invest in the town or possibly this position rather than an outside agency.

T. Molnar stated a member of this committee has the knowledge and expertise to do the **cedar** page, as what is on that page, it is very generic. May be better to keep the funds local and get more for their dollar. M. McIntyre questioned if that would be a conflict of interest, as she is now on the board, and had originally hired her to do the town map, how would it be seen if the pay a member of their board. Further discussion on the aspects of the plan, the town website and what could be improved.

Directory/Town Website Update – Martha Clifford & Christina Ryan

Continued discussion on the development plan and how to better use the town website. C. Ryan states she has been given admin rights to website and has gotten updates on information from Karen Stewart, has what she needs to move ahead. Discussion on numbers and information and whether it is accurate. M. McIntyre asked what progress might be in the next month. C. Ryan stated she hopes to have the business directory and snapshot done. C. Ryan asked if she should reach out to businesses to get testimonials, why they love Castleton, benefits, etc. Discussion on what the town has to offer, and what can be improved upon. It was felt that broadband, water sewer and electricity need to be more available.

Broadband Update – Tim Monks

They have done a study and found what would be needed to get fiber to everyone. The cost of would be 4.2 million to get it to everyone in Castleton. M. Jones stated he found out getting the services to businesses up on Staso Road gives credit and it won't cost the own anything. They could also pick up a number of the residential properties along the route as well. T. Munks stated they plan to go through the map with detail to see where there could be credits for businesses, etc. The fee calculations are per pole. M. Jones stated the ARPA proposal went before the Board of Selectmen, but they haven't acted, as they want to make sure all suggestions/requests are in before making any decisions of where the funds should go. Discussion held on fire districts and the area they cover, as well as the difficulty of the expansion of those districts. Either need to create a new district or expand the existing, but it is very difficult to do either.

SWOT – Next Step – All

It was stated that everything they have discussed this evening is on the chart.

Membership

M. McIntyre stated they have discussed in the past whether this group should be increased in size. Originally, they were approved for 9 members, some felt that was up to 12. R. Combs stated the website has to be updated, there are people on the list who are not on the committee, and there are some on the committee that are not on the list. C. Ryan stated she can make those changes, just needs an accurate list.

New Business

M. McIntyre offered to speak to a few business owners that may be interested in getting on the list for the website, etc, offered that other members could also do the same.

M. McIntyre also stated that she has been approached about by someone about the senior housing development on Sand Hill Road and whether it was a definite plan. It was stated that there is a bike path and the lake and there aren't a lot of places for people to stay in Castleton. It was asked if anyone has ever approached any small hotel chains, as Sand Hill Road may be a good location. Discussion on economic development and whether such a thing as a hotel chain is a possibility. Could review the town maps, regs and districts to see who or what could be brought into town. M. Jones also mentioned Tearsa Brannock coming to the Board of Selecmen requesting a letter of support for her daycare center. Also discussed briefly was the solar array being proposed on E Hubbardton Road/US route 4.

Adjourn

M. Clifford made a motion to adjourn at 7:40 P.M. T. Munks seconded the motion. All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted

Allison Harvey, Recording Secretary