

**CASTLETON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ECONOMIC
REVITALIZATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
Thursday, November 17, 2022
Castleton Town Office
and ZOOM**

Meeting Recording:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/LOQpv1qfO0IFzYhBjsbXj9QE2xa12tAcIKIjkJ2R89SOby8SrAWIikVDm58EOJ5I.R7f6Ok5bzaa4V7Tf>
Passcode: 47=tDt^V

Those in attendance included: Committee Members, Mary McIntyre, Martha Clifford, Petrina teRiele, Ted Molnar, Beth Murphy

Others present by Zoom included: Allison Harvey, Recording Secretary

M. McIntyre called the meeting to order at 6:38 P.M.

Approve Agenda

M. Clifford made a motion to approve the agenda as posted. T. Molnar seconded.

M. McIntyre stated that approval of the minutes of October 20, 2022 and November 3, 2022 needed to be added to the agenda.

All voted in favor of amending the agenda as stated. So voted.

Approval of Minutes of October 20, 2022 and November 3, 2022.

P. teRiele made a motion to approve the minutes of October 20, 2022 and November 3, 2022. M. Clifford seconded.

Minutes of October 20, 2022 Corrections:

Page 1 – last line *with business owners* should be added after future meeting. *Said she* should be added after M. McIntyre.

Page 2 – Recreation Update – Last sentence should read: *There is another group that is interested in doing a Robotics Lego Club.*

Page 2 – Planning Commission Update – second line *goes* should be changed to *go*. Next line, *ordinance* should be changed to *ordinances*.

Page 2 – New Business – *Town OCCUD representative* should be inserted after Tim Munks. Next line, *services* should be *Services* and *they* should be inserted between because are. First line of next paragraph – *for the river walk* should be inserted after benches. First line of next paragraph – *with some folks asking* should replace *of*.

Minutes of November 3, 2022 Corrections

Page 1 – last line of Greeting and Introductions - ; should be inserted after *platform is*. First line of next paragraph *is* should be inserted before *connecting*.

First question of Discussion – *with* should be replaced with *about*

Next to last line on the page – should end with *and see that their patrons are able to get to work because they have quality childcare, which helps the employers.*

Last line on the page – *Kyle* should be replaced with *Khele Sparks*

Page 2 – first letter of the first line of the first paragraph – *B.* should be replaced with *Claire O'Brien.* Same paragraph, third line, *A. Woodard employee, cell service is also an issue* should be replaced with *Matt Ryan, a Woodard Marine employee sated a lack of cell service on and around the lake is also an issue.*

Page 2 – 6th line of the What are your wishes for your business future paragraph – *of T. Brannock* should be changed to *as T. Brannock.*

All voted in favor. So voted.

Selectboard Update (Dick Combs)

Nothing to report, D. Combs was not present. T. Molnar stated it is his understanding from the last Selectboard meeting the Town of Castleton will be buying out the Town of Hubbardton share of the Castleton Village School.

Recreation Board Update (Martha Clifford)

M. Clifford stated there has been a recreation director hired. Bo Ramos, who is very enthusiastic and eager to start the job and will start on November 28, 2022

Basketball and Lego Robotics are in the works for the winter. They have not been able to get into the elementary school for the programs, she has asked M. Jones if they can get into the Village School, he was agreeable. Bo Ramos is going to be starting at the town office, but they are hopeful they will move to the Village School as soon as is convenient. Right now there is no phone or internet connection at the Village School, which was felt would be necessary to hold any programs there.

B. Murphy asked if there was an entity in town that does the arts for kids. M. Clifford stated other than the programs out of the library, that would be closest thing to an art program. It is possible the hiring of a director for the Recreation Department that they could move toward that. Further discussion continued on what future programs could or would be offered with the new director in place.

Review and Discuss Special Meeting Brainstorming Results

M. McIntyre stated the takeaway from the brainstorming was water, septic and childcare as the largest concerns of the businesses of the Town. D. Neary was aware of an engineering plan for septic being done in the past, and he would like to see it and find out what needs to be updated for it to be started again, to begin providing that service to those in need. M. McIntyre stated as far as water supply goes, some kind of priority matrix needs to be done, grants are available, but they are large, often years out and projects that would need to be handled by the Fire Districts #1 and #3.

It was advised that the CDERAC should focus on low hanging fruit and should be addressing such things as signage for businesses and the lake, primarily on US Route 4. Eric Splatt seemed very enthusiastic about seeing the signage improve, and even a billboard in NY State coming into the area was mentioned.

It was also mentioned the content lab at Castleton University could be contacted and how they could help, as well as Olivia and Lyle at CEDRR.

Devon Neary and Tyler Richardson also suggested possibly a broader survey of the Town, such as using Survey Monkey, Google Forums or go in person with questions. Also discussion held on the possibility of sub committees to further explore with businesses that may not have attended being involved in the November 3 meeting. B. Murphy stated she would be happy to work with someone who was familiar with the survey forums to get them started, possibly starting with Kathy Kozlick at Castleton University. T. Molnar stated he would like to know when that contact is made so that he can keep the Bridge Committee informed.

Further discussion on the meeting and how well it was kept running, as well as what else would be beneficial to the existing businesses, such as complimentary businesses to those existing within the Town. The marketing portion would be to contact Olivia and Lyle of CEDRR to see when they should be involved with the marketing. T. Molnar will make that connection with Dr. Talbot at the Contact Lab to see what they have to offer.

Also discussed the Fire District and contact about the water issues and where the districts are located, as well as what is offered and available from the water districts. M. McIntyre stated she will connect with Kerry Fowler, chair of Fire District #1 to see what the status of the water supply would be, if they would have capacity for expansion of the system.

M. McIntyre stated the elephant in the room of the November 3 meeting is the Castleton Village School, and how it can impact the Town, as well as the health of the Lake, neither of which were brought up for discussion during the meeting.

Discussion turned to the cell service in the area, and how it could be improved. T. Molnar said he will look into how this could be improved and whether it would be a viable project.

T. Molnar shared his idea of a biking extravaganza. There used to be one in Poultney but it has gone by the wayside. Castleton has the rail trail, there are routes on paved roads and there are quiet streets for children that could be used for all ages interested in biking. Children, the trail and an organized ride for people around town to show them what there is to be proud of. It is not a bike race, but a tour. Ice fishing events, or a cross country ski event on Lake Bomoseen were also mentioned. There is a dock dogs event that is not very well advertised on the Lake, possibly this could be expanded upon. Further discussion on events that are already in the area, and how they could be capitalized on to bring people into town. T. Molnar will put together some data that would pull all things together for the next meeting. Discussion on there being a foundation or infrastructure for the committee ideas to grow upon, rather than creating something from scratch.

Welcome Wagon (Mary McIntyre)

M. Clifford stated the town has become an air bnb, and owners and mailing addresses are difficult to keep track of to be able to provide these gifts to newcomers to Castleton. Brief discussion on the delivery of

welcome bags and the difficulty of finding the residents being home to deliver. There was a suggestion of a notation being posted on the Facebook page as well as the Town website giving contact information.

New Business

M. McIntyre stated that Poultney and Pittsford Chamber of Commerce are writing articles, with activities that are being offered within their towns. If no one in this group, maybe a college student or subcommittee could work to get the Town in the media in a similar way.

Question on whether Jared Ellis has been contacted about his property at the Castleton Corners. It was stated there is possibly some activity happening with the former Coon's Store property.

T. Molnar stated the two benches are being installed on Friday on the river walk. Discussion on how the benches will be secured to prevent theft.

8:09 pm Meeting Adjourned

Respectfully Submitted
Allison Harvey, Recording Secretary