

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

Thursday, December 15, 2022

**Castleton Town Office
and ZOOM**

Meeting Recording:

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/wuNOpqBrva5qZVkbhgjw5VzPErdJPvgCSjgTh0dmUpzjQwjExD0Jk4cKNI6I4VW_.1IzX7OUIVAAyTdSP
Passcode: W1BUB6^h

Those in attendance included: Committee Members, Mary McIntyre, Martha Clifford, Petrina teRiele, Zak Holzworth

Others present by Zoom included: Beth Murphy, Bo Elliot Ramos, Richard Combs, Allison Harvey, Recording Secretary

M. McIntyre called the meeting to order at 6:39 P.M.

Approve Agenda

Z. Holzworth made a motion to approve the agenda as posted. P. teRiele seconded.

All voted in favor. So voted.

Approval of Minutes of November 17, 2022.

Z. Holzworth made a motion to approve the minutes of November 17, 2022. B. Murphy seconded.

Page 2 – second line of last paragraph of Recreation Board Update – *to art* should be changed to *an art program*. Next line *discussion on* should be changed to *discussion continued on*.

Page 2 – first line of Review and Discuss Special Meeting Brainstorming Results – *are* should be changed to *as*. End of the third line, same paragraph, a , should be placed after *again*.

Page 3 – third line – *surveying* should be changed to *survey*.

Page 3 – sixth paragraph, end of the first line, *T. Molnar will* should be changed to *T. Molnar said he will*.

Page 3 – seventh paragraph, first line *has* should be deleted. Fourth line of same paragraph, *whatever* should be change to *what*.

All voted in favor. So voted.

Selectboard Update (Dick Combs)

R. Combs stated the Castleton Selectboard offered to buy out the Town of Hubbardton's 11% share of the Castleton Village School for \$25,000 and it was declined. The Town of Hubbardton wants twice that amount, the Town of Castleton is not prepared to offer that much, but would forgive their 11% of operating costs and would pay the difference if the 11% costs should go above \$25,000.

R. Combs reported that on the Sand Hill Project, the developer has appealed the DRB decision to Environmental Court, he is not certain of the timeline from this point. An appeal filed a week ago this past Friday, no other information to add on that topic.

M. McIntyre asked if there has been any discussion on the use of the CVS building at this time. She is aware it has been cleaned to be used and is curious on the expansion of the use of the building. R. Combs stated the Town Manager made the decision to allow the Recreation Department to use the building, other than that, there has been no other discussion.

B. Murphy asked where it is with the Town of Hubbardton if there will be a new offer. R. Combs stated they are going to sit tight for right now, there is no rush. They will send a bill for the 11% of expenses to date, which is about \$1,000 and as they accrue they will bill for the expenses. If the Town of Hubbardton decides to accept the offer that has been made the Town of Castleton is willing to accept it. Where the \$25,000 comes from is still to be determined, but they will figure it out when it becomes necessary. M. Clifford asked if anyone is interested in purchasing the building at this time. R. Combs stated there are some kicking tires, but no serious offers. M. Clifford asked if Tearsa Brannock is still interested in the building at all. R. Combs stated the last he knew, but it could be different, she was not going to move on her last offer and that offer was not something they could accept, it was too low. It is listed at \$660,000, but no reasonable offers have been received.

Recreation Board Update (Bo Elliot Ramos)

Introduced themselves and stated they are getting familiar with the workings of the position, etc. They have been in the position a few weeks now and is getting an idea with what is needed in the community. After the clean up at the CVS building, they have had basketball events at that location.

They will be attending the Bridge Meetings at Castleton University to make the community/college connection and has been to a Board of Selectboard meeting as well.

BE Ramos stated they attended the Christmas in Castleton events and has been working with Kerry Fowler to get an ice rink going at the Castleton Green.

M. McIntyre stated she is particularly interested in adult recreation, something like pickle ball and volleyball. She has spoken to Deanna Tyson at the University who has two interns that would be interested in helping with getting those started. D. Tyson would also hold a free clinic for pickle ball, as she coaches that sport at Castleton University. BE Ramos will be reaching out to D. Tyson. M. Clifford also has a resource for adult sports.

B. Murphy stated she wanted to inquire about the arts programs she addressed in the previous meeting, and offered to help out if there is an arts program start up. BE Ramos stated she is also interested in arts, and will be moving forward with that as well. M. McIntyre stated that Christina Ryan, a past member of this board, is also interested in the arts, and could potentially be a good resource.

Business Meeting Follow Ups

Broader Feedback/Survey – Beth Murphy

B. Murphy stated she has mastered Survey Monkey, however she has been sick for a few weeks, and has decided with the holidays so close, she will wait until after the holidays to initiate. She is looking at the

middle to end of January. She has run into an issue however of getting business email addresses and is working with Karen Stewart on that to see how many they can come up with. Also discussed that may a mailing via USPS should be considered.

Marketing – Ted Molnar

T. Molnar is not present at this time. M. McIntyre stated T. Molnar was also going to update them on a biking extravaganza and explained to BE Ramos the thoughts on how they are going to promote that in the town.

CU Content Lab Resources – Martha Clifford

M. Clifford stated she has emailed Mr. Halbut multiple times at the University and has not gotten any response to date. She did outline to him in her voicemails what they are looking for, but she still waiting to hear from him. She will make attempts to get to him by telephone.

Water & Sewer – Mary McIntyre

M. McIntyre stated she did go to the Board of Selectmen, per Tyler and Devon's suggestion to ask that they investigate the last sewer study done for Creek Road. As far as the water goes, she had a conversation with Kerry Fowler, Chair of the Fire District #1. He explained they are waiting on the State of Vermont for loan approval for improvements that need to be done to the system. M. McIntyre further explained the discussion with K. Fowler and what could be done with the RRPC to get things moving in a timelier manner. R. Combs suggested that Robert Helm was maybe a resource, he is still the local State Representative until January and he would probably be more than willing to rattle some cages on the State level to see about funding moving forward. There was also discussion on sewer projects that have been quoted, and where they are located and whether the costs obtained are still valid.

Signage - Mary McIntyre

M. McIntyre stated that during their business brainstorming meeting, there were ideas about getting signage to clearly market the town to attract tourists. It was suggested businesses get a billboard in New York State but she has not been able to make connect with Eric Splatt of Woodard Marine, but she will continue with her efforts. Z. Holzworth felt maybe there was not a billboard available on route 4 eastbound but he may know an owner of those billboards and will try to reach out to them.

WiFi Zone Issues – Ted Molnar

T. Molnar was not present at this time.

BE Ramos stated on the signage issue, geofencing is an option, and advertising is advertising, maybe there is the opportunity for online advertisement or radio that could be a backup plan.

New Business

Discussion on email addresses and it was questioned if they are looking for all local businesses or just the ones that were at the business meeting. P. teRiele suggested maybe a link on the town webpage to the survey monkey or a Facebook page link. Discussion was held on whether the links should be anonymous or if it is better to have the business name.

7:36 pm Meeting Adjourned

M. Clifford made a motion to adjourn. Z. Holzworth seconded. All voted in favor. So voted.

Respectfully Submitted

Allison Harvey, Recording Secretary

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