

Castleton-Hubbardton *ad hoc* Committee on the Future of CVS  
April 12, 2022, meeting

Minutes

Attendees: Bob Gibbs, Rick Grabowski, Mary Lee Harris, Joe Mark

We agreed to keep and post minutes.

We agreed to hold meetings for the purpose of getting public input as well as smaller working sessions.

Typically, we will meet twice a month.

Our first “open forum” for the purpose of soliciting public input will be:

6:00 pm Thursday, April 21, 2022

In the Community Room of the Castleton Public Safety Building

Joe volunteered to draft an announcement for Front Porch Forum (FPF) to inform citizens of the *ad hoc* committee, the general process it plans, and the open forum on the 21<sup>st</sup>.

Mary Lee will submit this announcement to the Lakeside News and the Lakes Region Free Press.

We will publicize our meeting schedule in the following ways:

- Hubbardton will post notices in the three locations commonly used for Town business.
- Castleton will post such announcements on its web page and on Facebook.
- On FPF

Joe will contact one or more Rutland Herald reporters with the hope of getting publicity on the 4/21 open forum.

We agreed to consider meeting with one or two realtors specializing in commercial real estate. Bob mentioned that Roy Alt might be someone we should consider meeting with.

We discussed the challenges of trying to get input from a broad cross-section of the citizenry. One option might be putting a nonbinding question on the November 2022 ballot, perhaps something like, “Should the towns of Castleton and Hubbardton jointly create a “community center” at the former Castleton Village School if it might cost \$250,000 annually [just a guess at this point] to support such a center?”

We agreed to support a proposal by Mary Droege to seek a federal “earmark” for the purpose of conducting a feasibility study regarding the CVS building and property. It is our understanding that, should an earmark be obtained, it would neither cost our towns anything nor would it obligate us to any particular program.

Eventually we will work on developing a memorandum of understanding that will detail how the two towns will collaborate on such matters as:

- Financial obligations, liabilities, and benefits related to co-owning the school property
- Governance or a system for decision-making about the property and its use

All agreed that proposals for a “community center” or other town-sponsored uses of the facility should ultimately include a business plan that outlines anticipated expenditures and anticipated revenues. Ideally,

such a center or any other proposal for the use of the former school should require little or no taxpayer support.

Joe reported briefly on some of the details that need to be addressed before the towns can formally acquire the property.

Our next regular meeting will be at 6:00 pm on Wednesday, May 4, 2022, in the PSB community meeting room.