

Mont Vernon Library Trustees Meeting
Tuesday, December 21, 2021

In attendance: Bonnie Angulas, Cindy Raspiller, Amy White, Jane King Guests: John Quinlan, Howard Brown, Tim Berry, Jack Esposito, Lou Springer, remote - Pete King (Meeting of Library Trustees with Town Select Board and representative of Cemetery Commission, and representative from Daland Trustees.)

1. Meeting called to order 7:30pm

2. Agenda approval.

3. Minutes reviewed. Amy moved to approve minutes from December 7th, Jane seconded All approved.

4. Lou Springer - reported on the timber harvest on the cemetery/ library lot

- Everything is going well.
- A timber harvest can happen again in approximately 30 years. They are leaving nice trees (heritage trees). The lot will look good, and the trails are open and will look good. There was interest shown on social media but this settled down after Lou posed an explanation of the ongoing work.
- What type of trees? Mostly white pine, lots of firewood (low grade).
- Net for the town approximately \$23K. But we will know more when this is done.

5. First Warrant Article – (Library Trustees) Standard Add to the Library Capital Reserve, with matching funds from the Daland Trust \$20K.

6. Second warrant article - (Library Trustees) Funding for the Final design phase - which is the construction documents – expected \$130K. We have discussed to use the Library Capital Reserve. There is no immediate tax impact from use of the LCR. Cindy discussed this warrant article with Anne Dodd of the Daland Trustees. Anne supports using ½ of the funds contributed by the town, and ½ of the funds by the Daland Trust matching contributions. Cindy said that she would confer with the Trustee of the Trust Funds to ensure the correct wording of the Warrant Article.

7. Third Warrant Article - (Selectmen) Construction of the Cemetery and Library access road Tim Berry reported that they are working with Spencer from Meridian on an updated RFP. The Selectmen are scheduling a public hearing in mid-January. John Quinlan is connecting with Meridian to assure that they have access to the information from the 2021 RFP prepared by DSK to avoid duplication of effort.

The selectmen want the road to go before the voters.

A question that has come up repeatedly about whether the town/the select board can use block grant funds. Jack said the select board will not use those funds, because the select board keeps those in reserve in case of emergency. Tim Berry explained that the town has other needs that require the use of those funds.

The select board has held off on Brook Road Culvert waiting for the infrastructure bill to be passed.

Cindy asked if there is a way to apply for grants to get infrastructure money and both Jack and Tim explained that they are not familiar with how to go about getting these funds.

Tim added that someone from Lyndeborough explained there may be a new database that helps municipalities access grants. But this is not something available now.

American Recovery Act - Arpa Grant Funds - these are very restricted funds - we have to use it all - and you have to report back how these funds were spent.

Lou was asked how much space is left in the cemetery? He responded that there is 10 years capacity left in the current cemetery. He also noted that the road should be ready in five years so that work can begin on the new cemetery.

The selectmen are currently expecting the Warrant Article to call for a bonding the Cemetery Rd. – 350K or 400K – $\frac{2}{3}$ vote is needed to have it approved. Bonnie suggested that they be prepared to answer the question why they are proposing the project instead of using highway grant funding as has been discussed in the past. Jack responded that he believes a bond is the best way to fund this - because bond money is cheap this year.

Tim Berry asked - is the Foundation fundraiser being successful finding funds? Cindy responded that yes - he has discovered some local sources of money that we were unaware of, and the Foundation is applying to grants as the foundation finds them. However, the foundation was turned down for a few smaller grants so we will apply for these. We aren't slowing down - we will keep applying. We don't want to risk losing the money the Foundation has raised - it is time sensitive and we are working hard to capitalize on the time we have.

8. Building Committee Report

The committee has assembled the DSK plans requirements drawings
Five different construction firms to consider - John and the committee have vetted these firms and considered them for many different reasons.

Three primary firms have been solicited - Hutter, Engelbert, and Harvey.

Big - Jim Rose from Engelbert - withdrew his interest at this point. They had a change in personnel, but they may be able to consider the project later in the process.

9. Invoices to approve

Geotech invoice to approve - GSI 55 North Stark Highway Weare, NH - November 30th - \$6200

DSK invoice to approve - December 7th - \$24,182.75

Amy moves to pay both, Jane seconds - motion carried unanimously

10. Selectman's Representative

Howard Brown - brought up the importance of hiring a professional grant writer. Rebecca Schwartz has taken a course in writing grants - and now has access to a database - but we will meet with her to see if we can collaborate

11. Bonnie - Librarian Report

New town website has been created. Cindy and Bonnie distinguished what makes sense on the official library page on the town website, and what people should look for on the actual library website. Cindy urged Bonnie does not duplicate efforts.

Positive covid case in a family of a staff member. The staff member does not report to work and now the staff member has covid and will be out for 10 days. So this is specific for a pandemic.

Bonnie is writing something up

Cindy said she should be paid for her hours and she should be able to work from home

The library collected 500 pairs of underwear over 475 pairs of socks to support a recent Share initiative and received a very nice letter from Share to thank us for the very generous donation.

December 29th - 7pm - budget review with town.

Dell computer was purchased! - Dick Lambert (the in-house tech expert) will help set it up in a week.

12. Treasurer's Report - Jane checked with Bonnie - everything seems like it is on track. Last big expense is Dick Lambert - IT guy - and bill for the laptop - but there are funds available to cover both.

13. Correspondence Report: Thank you notes from staff for holiday gifts! And Share thank you note for the donation

14. Policy Review:

Reconsideration Policy: our policy is up to date. The only thing we don't have is a programming policy (but at this point we don't do anything controversial so we are all set.)

Masking policy - Staff would like to have a full mask required in the building. And we will evaluate again at the January meeting.

Jane moved for this policy, Amy seconded - all in favor.

Bonnie suggested buying HEPA filters for the library if year-end funds are available. The Trustees unanimously approved use of leftover funds on these for the building.

Respectfully submitted, Amy White, Secretary