

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

Thursday, January 19, 2023

**Castleton Fire Department
and ZOOM**

Meeting Recording:

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/xNfn2GZvUMO9aZ6xl6wwhrgNGxK-sbgr_PVjjggOxlNsw5ij0HgBEzSovYMLbk71.qXg-ZGArUGiBvXSK

Passcode: +=#es9DD

Those in attendance included: Committee Members, Mary McIntyre, Martha Clifford, Beth Murphy, Zak Holzworth

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

M. McIntyre called the meeting to order at 6:34 P.M.

Approve Agenda

Z. Holzworth made a motion to approve the agenda as posted. T. Molnar seconded.

All voted in favor. So voted.

Approval of Minutes of December 15, 2022.

M. Clifford made a motion to approve the minutes of December 15, 2022. Z. Holzworth seconded.

Page 2 – 6th paragraph, end of the 3rd line, *coach* should be replaced with *teaches a class on*.

Page 2 – 7th paragraph, second line, *she is* should be replaced with *they are*

Page 3 – end of the second line, *may* should be deleted.

Page 3 – first line of the CU Content Lab Resources paragraph – *Mr. Halbut* should be replaced with *Dr. Talbott*.

All voted in favor. So voted.

Recreation Board Update (Bo Elliott Ramos)

Basketball is in full swing for the 3rd-4th grade is halfway through their season, 1st-2nd grade has started practice, no games, too little.

Gearing up for baseball and has put out a bulletin on how the program will run. Softball for grades 3-6 will be offered within town.

On the Recreation Department agenda for the months ahead they are working with the Department of Public Works Department to do big rehabs on Dewey and Hydeville fields. The recent storms have created a lot of needed repairs. M. McIntyre stated that if BE Ramos wanted to reach out, the Castleton Lions Club may want to offer some help, they were looking for a project to take on. M. Clifford asked BE

Ramos to remind her about help from the Lions Club, as there are a few things they could use help on at the Crystal Beach.

BE Ramos stated they have come close to completing the CVS upgrades that had been discussed, other than a few classrooms due to a problem with keys.

BE Ramos has calculated that they will have room for two pickle ball courts in the CVS gym, and they have some of the equipment, net, paddles and balls, basically need another net. They are very close to getting dates on the calendar, M. McIntyre will contact D. Tyson at Castleton University and order another net. T. Molnar stated that David Skidmore lives in Town and is an avid player, feels he may be willing to assist as well.

BE Ramos stated they are trying to come up with a free software program for scheduling purposes, they have been reviewing them, may have to spend a few dollars but not sure yet. They are also trying to come up with some generic form that could accomplish the same thing temporarily.

M. McIntyre asked if the volleyball net had been found. BE Ramos stated they recall possibly seeing one under the stage at CVS but will follow up.

BE Ramos mentioned the petition presented to the Selectboard, and that they have been working on it with the Town of Hubbardton as well. M. Clifford stated the petition has been presented; however, the wording on the petition is how it must go on the ballot. They have accepted it and it will be on the ballot near the end of the articles in the Town of Castleton. M. Clifford stated she also took it to the Town of Hubbardton and the Town Clerk indicated the same thing; wording may be a problem. M. Clifford stated M. Jones is working on the wording that will go on the ballot for the petition, and he will provide it to M. Clifford to take to the Town of Hubbardton. M. McIntyre questioned the \$90,000 amount that is being proposed and how the 11% that is the responsibility of the Town of Hubbardton works into it. It was not clear how the 11% expenses that are to be reimbursed by the Town of Hubbardton for those operating expenses is to be addressed. Further discussion on the CVS building and the cost that the Board of Selectmen have proposed be in the budget, as well as the petition that has been accepted and will also be on the ballot in March for the almost \$90,000 expenses for an annual expense to keep the building for the 3 years the petition addresses.

Selectboard Update (Dick Combs)

The Selectboard accepted the petition presented by M. Clifford; however, the VLCT has indicated it can't be acted upon as presented. They have decided to put it on the ballot asking should the town retain ownership of this building, and if so, shall they be authorized to spend \$90,519. There will be anticipated revenue, 11% from Town of Hubbardton, as well as any revenues from the Recreation Commission. However, they need to be sure the revenue is going to cover the expense. They are going to be approving the warning on Monday, so this could be premature. He has also heard that the Town of Hubbardton is upset the Town of Castleton is using the building, increasing expenses, so this could get complicated. He does not plan on backing off, but he is only 20% of the board, so he can't speak for the rest of the board. M. Clifford stated the recreation and CVS coalition is meeting with the Boys & Girls Club on Wednesday

next week, which could be a chunk of revenue. R. Combs stated if the Boys & Girls Club could provide revenue, the public needs to be educated that revenue could be coming in from that source but would still need to get voter approval of the expense of keeping the building. T. Molnar asked if the Town of Hubbardton is upset about the use of the building, what is the expense if the building is not being used. R. Combs stated the power bill did go up, and will also have to put fuel in the fuel tank sooner than later but they can't provide a difference of empty versus used for the building.

R. Combs further stated that they did get a budget passed, it was a tough approval, and is a 4.8% increase. They have agreed to use \$143,200 of ARPA for one-time expenses. They have just over 1million to spend in the next 3 years for ARPA funds. M. McIntyre asked if the \$143,200 included the library \$100,000. R. Combs stated that \$290,000 out of the 1.3 or 1.4 they are receiving has been allocated. A salt shed is not included in those number, they are working on a grant for that, and should be able to do that without ARPA funds.

M. McIntyre asked about the sewer study for Creek Road and Depot Terrace, and who she should see about those, M Jones? R. Combs suggested an email that includes him to the Town Manager, and he is aware that there are four areas in upgrade discussions: Preston Lane, Depot Terrace, Crystal Heights and Creek Road. R. Combs said to end the email asking M. Jones for details and they will get her an answer. M. McIntyre stated she got a hold of Kerry Fowler (Fire District #1), they have made headway on the federal loan, and they are moving forward on that process. Next is their history of making loan payments in the past, and they will be moving forward.

Business Meeting Follow Ups

Broader Feedback/Survey – Beth Murphy

B. Murphy stated she has attempted the survey monkey, but only a certain number of responses can be obtained for free. She asked Bo Elliott Ramos to assist her with getting more responses. BE Ramos would be more than happy to assist.

Marketing – Ted Molnar

T. Molnar stated he is waiting for feedback, has been in touch with the University contacts, that is all he has right now. It was asked what the next step is to proceed, it was stated to highlight businesses and general marketing concepts to promote the area.

Geo Fencing – Bo Elliott

BE Ramos stated targeted marketing is based on geography, they have done an informational sheet explaining what it is. Using data available digitally, this is another channel that can be used to spotlight Castleton. They can investigate billboards, depending on what channels can be explored, as well as the budget available. Possible channels are Facebook, You Tube, Digital Radio (Spotify or Iheart Radio) and traditional radio. Z. Holzworth stated he likes those idea, but his question is how much they are willing to spend. Costs need to be seriously considered and how it compares to geo fencing. M. McIntyre suggested Z. Holzworth, BE Ramos and B. Murphy join together to better organize a geo fencing and/or advertising program together.

Water & Sewer – Mary McIntyre

M. McIntyre stated she has already disclosed what she found from the Selectboard on this, as well as discussion with K. Fowler and the Fire District moving forward.

Signage - Mary McIntyre

Z. Holzworth provided M. McIntyre with information from Lamar, a billboard company that seems to have space available in New York. She shared that information with Eric Splatt, and he has indicated his property is across from the Big Apple on Route 4. E. Splatt is very interested in and willing doing something with that. T. Molnar suggested that maybe they should also check in with Fair Haven, as that is the first town entered from state line.

CU Content Lab Resources – Martha Clifford

M. Clifford stated she has a message in to Dr. Talbott and is waiting for a call back. T. Molnar stated that M. Molnar is very familiar with Dr. Talbott and could possibly provide further contact.

Bike Extravaganza – Ted Molnar

T. Molnar has been thinking about what can and can't be done. The first is time of year. It would not be ideal for summer, although more people, he feels it would be difficult to close roads for an event that time of year. There are two routes ideal for children and adults, as well as a third, gravel on the rail trail. They should also find things to go around the event to draw more people. He would like to meet with BE Ramos to come up with more ideas and plans. There are four other people that would be willing to participate in a committee. There is also a possibility of including Poultney as well. Sara Pelkey would be willing to help and participate in the Town of Poultney Recreation and Economic Development.

New Business

Brief discussion on the report written for the annual report, as well as what was budgeted for both years.

B. Murphy asked if all committee members contact information could be distributed to everyone.

7:40 pm Meeting Adjourned

T. Molnar made a motion to adjourn. B. Murphy seconded. All voted in favor. So voted.

Respectfully Submitted

Allison Harvey, Recording Secretary