

By Way Committee Meeting
January 25, 2007

Present: Don Wexler, Jack Byrne, Steve from Central Vt. Regional Planning Commission, Ellie H. from the historical society, Stephanie from the Town Select Board, and folks that live on Rt. 100 B(Clark, Jeb, Rick and Mr. O'Neal). Several National Honor Society members attended as well: Sam Ferenc, Cloe Wexler, and another student.

Three items for this committee to focus on:

- 1) By way dedication
- 2) The old school house: tying it in with the by way
- 3) Working on another grant. There was a grant meeting a few weeks ago. Stephanie is working on a draft of another grant.

By Way dedication May 20th plans

The purpose of this day is to celebrate and dedicate the by way.

Several committees are formed to work on various components of the day

- 1)The bike ride component of the celebration day: Don and Randy will co-chair.
- 2)Food Committee: Stephanie will chair.
- 3)School facilities committee to coordinate with the school: access, keeping the doors open for a chunk of the day for people to come in
- 4)Walking committee: Clark will chair. Task for this committee is to organize walks along the river, Rt. 100 B, and walks through various parts of town on the by way, and artisan walk. Public could choose an activity such as walking in the village, walking around the gorge, or walking the nature trail.
- 5)Fund Raising committee(looking for more members): Raise just enough money to put this by way dedication event on.
- 6)Safety Committee: Don appointed Craig Eilers as chair. Should there be a sheriff for traffic control?
- 7)Communications/PR: Jack will chair.
- 8)Education Committee: Duane and Kate O'Neal
- 9)Prizes for bike event: Don Wexler will chair.

10)Organizing honor society students will need to be done. Duane and Jack will over see this.

It was suggested to invite some public officials. Jack has been working on this.

Our section of the by way needs to be named. This needs to be done in consideration of adjoining towns. Lots of work still needs to be done on this.

Question of obtaining funds from the town came up at a previous meeting.

.Bike rodeo/safety day on May 20th as part of the by way celebration. Steve has found out that there is an instructor from available for this day. Could be a simple booth, or someone to check safety of bikes, helmets, and repairing bikes. The focus is the by way so since this is about biking, this would be something that the by-way would be used for. Possibly do a bike parade with the kids involved in the rodeo. Don and Randy will chair this event.

. Committee would like help from Moretown School, too. Work with Steve Galdczuk from Regional planning commission and Mad River watch group. Steve has a plan from a previous town receiving a by way grant regarding how the school was involved. Kathi will contact him for this information.

There are some things in the grant that the children may be asked to do that might be showcased. It has an educational component to it.

Possible ways to involve kids might be to become tour guides with the historical walking map the primary unit made years ago. The Historical Society still has copies of this map. Another idea might be to have children study the river/eco system and show case their findings.

Maybe the PTN could help with this day.

Kathi will talk to Roberta to see where we want to go from here with the kids and if there are some staff members that would spear head what the kids do.

The grant that has been approved already has the following regarding the education component:

A consultant will work with teachers to educate by way drivers to be observant. Developing posters, flyer to do this. The consultant hasn't been hired yet.

Money might be available in February. The Town has to sign an agreement then money can be disbursed.

Next meeting of this group(By way/ old school) will be February 12th, 7:00,library. By then each of the committees will have a plan to share what they will do. They will also need to come knowing how much money they might need.

OLD SCHOOL HOUSE:

Don reported the following:

Contractors: No one has really looked at the roof. We need prices for the building. Stephanie is trying to work on a grant for the old school house renovation.

Don asked Kathi to forward Roberta's e-mail to Jack that was originally from Earline/Ellie consisting of interviews of people who went to the Taplin School as students.

Chloe will research deeds for the Taplin School with Shelia G.

Green Mountain Power is concerned about their access to their site below the old school. GMP may consider selling the Taplin School to us for \$1. However, the man from GMP has other ideas to share, but didn't actually share them yet with Don.

Uses for the school that would fit in with the grant Stephanie is writing would be to renovate it as the old school house and use it as an information site and stabilize it because it is an historical building. The historical society and the school will utilize it as well.

Possibly look into the Preservation Trust to get a mini grant to get estimates to preserve the school. They have experts on staff to help. This grant would pay for someone to access the needs of the building. Jack will follow up on this.

Perhaps the school and historical society could write letters of support for this old school renovation endeavor to add to the grant request.

TOWN HALL: the town has hired a preservation architect to give estimates of what needs to be done to upgrade the building. There have been a few fundraising events so far: the artisan's sale, camel's hump calendar.

Karen Horn has two bands that would come play and the town would waive the fee. The Rusty Romance Band and the Barn Band would play. A lot of these members are local officials in surrounding towns. The date is Feb. 17th. They are thinking of asking donations such as \$5 to go toward the Town Hall. The band will also invite people from their towns. Karen needs help to set up, take money, and clean up. Karen will get posters from the bands. Potluck finger food will be requested.

Clark and Jeb will help Karen organize/set up/clean up.

Could this group use the Valentines from the PTN social dance the week before? Kathi will speak with Megan about leaving the hearts/lights up if possible and then this Town Hall fundraiser will take them down for us.