



Cambridge Crossroads
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday May 6, 2009

Corrections applied 5/12/2009

7:10 - 9:00pm
Boyden Valley Winery, Cambridge

Attendees:

Peter Ingvaldstad, Phyllis Shanley, Zeke Zucker, Bill McKone, Laird MacDowell, Mark Schilling, Paige Kelly, Joel Page, Anne Rogers, Joe Rogers, Fred Boyden, Linda Collins.

Agenda:

- 7:00 - 7:10 Call to Order, Introductions, Adopt the Agenda and Announcements.
- 7:10 - 7:20 Town Organizations Report out to others on objectives, projects, requests for assistance and reports on past events.
- Request for support from the Green Mountain Relay
 - Cambridge Rotary, Cambridge Conservation Commission, and Cambridge Historical Society Green Up Day events
 - Gateway to Nature / Lamoille Valley Mentorship Partnership mentoring training program
- 7:20 - 8:25 Reports and discussion of Work Groups / Committees
- Communications
 - Cambridge Community News Letter
 - Column in support of small businesses
 - Other potential articles and columns
 - Costs of website server and creating a community front page separate from the current Crossroads site
 - Economic Development
 - Community Center
 - Cambridge Trails Work Group
 - Place Based Learning
 - Bringing place based education back to Cambridge Crossroads
- 8:25 - 8:30 Review Calendar - Request for Future Agenda Items and Adjourn

Meeting Convened:

Call to order at 7:10pm. Peter Ingvaldstad, chair. Phyllis Shanley, minutes.

External Activities Reports:

Topic: Green Mountain Relay Race, June 20th. Jeffersonville to Bennington

The Cambridge community has "volunteered" assistance at the Cambridge Elementary School at 5am for set up and at the Town Garage at 6am for the first exchange. The community will be paid for the help. Contact Bill McKone for more information.

Topic: Jeffords Park Project

Picnic furniture is being delivered to the site soon. The Park may be presentable by June 20th for the Relay Race.

Topic: Green Up Day events

The morning Pie For Breakfast at Brown & Jenkins brought in around \$500 to the Rotary to help the Rail Trail. The afternoon Celebration at Boyden Farm pavilion, sponsored by the Cambridge Conservation Commission, saw a comfortable turnover of visitors during the 4-hour event. All uneaten breakfast pies were sold at the Boyden event.

Topic: Sweet House open to public for next CHS meeting

The Cambridge Historical Society had timely help on Green Up Day from Kevin Whitcavich to haul away a season's worth of rakings in the garden and yard of the Sweet House on Main Street in Jeffersonville. CHS is ready to hold an event there in the form of their regular meeting on Wednesday, May 13th at 7pm.

Discussion

CHS member Laure LaForce has established a presence on Facebook for the Historical Society. It has a lot of nice pictures and is growing fast. [A link can be found at cambridgecrossroads.net or in our newsletter.]

Topic: Gateway to Nature / Lamoille Valley Mentorship Partnership

Training for Tracking event on August 21st will have an orientation meeting in July - TBA.

Discussion

Peter Ingvaldstad is on the Board of the LVMP and was the inventor of the Gateway to Nature program for Smuggler's Notch Resort. Bill Stritzler, owner of Smuggs, is also on the Board of the Vermont Nature Conservancy. Since attending the Sacred Hunt weekend at Shelburne Farms early this spring, Peter has wanted to bring these ideas and efforts together.

Peter believes every child should have a mentor, however, only one in ten mentors are men. He would like to introduce more men to the joys of sharing with young people, using outdoor activities similar to the Sacred Hunt - build something in the morning, play in the afternoon. To this end he is organizing a training for tracking event in August, open to anyone interested in mentoring.

Crossroads Work Group Reports:

Report: Treasury

As of April 30, 2009, we have \$1961.92 in cash and projected funding of \$9975.00 for the year 2009. Joe Rogers, Crossroads Treasurer, told us that we (Crossroads and Historical Society) could be eligible for \$2300 in cash plus another \$1000 in cash or equipment from IBM. The Historical Society would like to have equipment/funds for a digital projector and for digitizing their photo collection. [Photo to right is the loft at Boyden Valley Winery where we held our meeting.]



Report: Communications

Joel Page pointed out that we are all involved in communications. There really is no separation of efforts as we had first thought after the Forum in Nov 08. Joel has been an active member of the community for many years and now perceives more interaction among volunteer groups with a greater awareness of each other. [Go, Crossroads!]

Topic: Cambridge Newsletter

Mark Schilling has established regular publication dates (10th of each month) and deadlines for submission of content (5th of each month) in order to solidify a regular, predictable schedule for the newsletter. As of this meeting, Mark has received 6 new articles and the mailing list has collected a dozen new subscribers. Our subscription to Constant Contact is \$20/month.

Discussion

Anne Rogers requested more information about Crossroads in the newsletter and asked about printing it for seniors at Mann's Meadow. Mark reminded us that the email layout of the newsletter is not very attractive as a printed document.

Others asked about adding mailing lists from other organizations, like the Rotary and CHS, but Mark said Constant Contact does not allow purchase of mailing lists and keeps a close eye on potential misuse or privacy invasion. The first newsletter was forwarded to both the Rotary and CHS lists by members of those organizations; their members are free to subscribe to our mailing list and anyone on our mailing list is free to unsubscribe. A “sign-up for our newsletter” link can be placed on any of our websites. [Phyllis will add this to cambridgexroads.net and future sites we develop.]

Mark has received constructive positive feedback from readers as well as correspondence with other media, specifically Kathy Johnson (*News & Citizen*) and Karen Boushie (*Smuggs*). Lisa Vanat (CES) also gets our newsletter. They are developing a news exchange.

Advertising in the newsletter was explored a bit. Can we pay our expenses by selling ads or by charging businesses a fee for listing them on our future website/wiki? Taking profit may compromise our volunteer status in terms of grants. We will take up this question again at our next meeting.

Dennis Shanley had offered to do a column for small business development but his medical condition leaves him with less energy than he would like. He has withdrawn the offer for the time being.

Topic: How do we touch the non-electronic community?

Discussion

Paige Kelly and Joel considered a one-page printed calendar.
Bill McKone suggested talking to the Vermont Council on Aging.
Peter wondered if someone at Mann's Meadow would consider taking on such a project.
Anne will talk to Joann Wyckoff, a former IBM employee who lives at Mann's Meadow now.

Topic: Cambridge Wiki & the Websites

We now have a Basic Plan account with VermontWebHost.com providing us server space of 400MB, 7GB bandwidth (data transfers per month), and up to 5 domains (separate web sites) - all for \$6.95/mo. The current plan for these 5 domains is as follows:

1. Cambridge Crossroads home base (as it is now);
2. Cambridge Wiki, open to everyone but monitored by us;
3. Municipal website, including committees, boards, selectmen, bylaws, health regs, site reviews, minutes of meetings, etc. (Joel can provide a list!);
4. Cambridge “Front Page” or “Front Porch” with 50 things to do here in any of 6 seasons and general PR for the area; and
5. (*a reserve*)

Discussion

Phyllis talked to Jane Shaw (Visions of Vermont art gallery) for ideas about the Front Porch site. Jane said she can provide images of some of the wonderful landscape paintings she has access to. She believes that the Cambridge area is a result of its geology. The landscape draws gifted artists, skiers and hikers, sightseers and other seekers of rural challenges. Unlike grander places, our mountains are in human scale, easier to understand and more comfortable to live with.

Mark stressed the scope and magnitude of this undertaking and reassured us all that we are still in the planning stages. Phyllis asked for help - either financial or substantive - because of the time required to develop it all. Joel thought that \$10,000 was not much in the context of the Town budget, especially for something this meaningful for the Town. There is a procedure for submitting such a proposal for acceptance by taxpayers. Bill McKone suggested contacting our legislative reps “to see if there's anything lying around” by way of grant money. The possibility of charging a fee for businesses or for advertising was mentioned again.

Plan

Phyllis, Mark, Joel and Peter will meet at Joel's house in two weeks to address planning and funding issues.

Report: Economic Development

Paige Kelly again expressed her disappointment with the total lack of response to her work group's attempts to engage CES students in logo ideas. They will be asking artist Pam Fiaschetti to create something for us.

Report: Community Center

No one from the "official" Community Center work group was present this evening. Peter gestured to the lovely loft over the Boyden Valley Winery where we were holding our meeting and said, "This is a community center - this building and this gathering." Phyllis said she has the Shaw's invitation to hold our next meeting in one of their buildings, possibly the big house, 100 Main St. in Jeffersonville. It is a beautiful location with interesting spaces filled with art work and museum pieces.

Report: Cambridge Trails

Zeke Zucker has researched trail mapping in other communities and has copies of the Morristown Trails Map and the Kingdom Trails Map (Burke). The Morristown map sells for \$2.00. The Kingdom map includes mountain biking trails.

Report: Place Based Learning in Crossroads

Peter would like to have a little historical talk at each of our meetings, just as we had a tour of Warner Lodge last month after our meeting. We asked Fred Boyden to give us a brief history of the barn we were in.



This smaller barn next to the old brick farmhouse was probably built in the 1830's. The front (older) portion is made of hand-hewn timbers while the back portion is sawn timbers. It was used as the neighborhood creamery in the 1920's and 30's. Pigs lived below and thrived on whey from the process above them. Fred remembers as a youngster in the 1940's getting up at 4am to feed horses, then to use them to truck logs to the lumber mills. In 1950, when dairying was the chief industry at the farm, the small barn was converted for raising heifers.

One winter the roof almost caved in under the snow load, but Fred and his sons managed to fix it. When they were digging a new water line recently, they found four different lines: cedar pump logs; lead; iron; and plastic. The cedar pump logs must be 150 years old, buried 4' deep by hand labor.

The Fassetts were the first owners of this farm. They were town leaders and probably directed the growth of the area. Clara Gates owned it for about 68 years. Fredrick and Phila Boyden bought it from her in 1914 for \$15,000. [The picture above was taken in 1914.]

Review Calendar

The next general meeting will be at 7:00pm on Wednesday, June 3rd at 100 Main Street, Jeffersonville.

Meeting Adjourned:

Adjourn at 9:pm

CAMBRIDGE CROSSROADS OFFICERS:

| | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| <u>Secretary</u> | Phyllis Shanley |
| <u>Treasurer</u> | Joe Rogers |
| <u>Vice Chair</u> | Dennis Shanley |
| <u>Chair</u> | Peter Ingvoldstad |

CAMBRIDGE CROSSROADS / PLACE Program Goals

Place-based Landscape Analysis and Community Education..

- To provide a framework for residents to learn more about their town's natural and cultural heritage and share this knowledge.
- To provide local educators with information, resources, and curriculum development support for creating place-based learning opportunities for their students.
- To support an informed and participatory community dialogue that builds upon an integrated interpretation of town landscapes and their transformation through time.
- To showcase and integrate efforts of individuals and organizations involved in local landscape stewardship and interpretation.
- To strengthen the sense of community identity and the connection between past, present and sustainable future.

PLACE Program Steps

- Landscape Analysis - geological, ecological, cultural
- Place-based Learning - incorporating local history, culture, ecology, economics, food into community learning through service learning and partnerships in community and school. People learn better when it's about their place.
- Vision to Action Forum - building on ecological, cultural, geological heritage of Cambridge and building a plan for the future.