



Cambridge Crossroads
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday June 3, 2009

Some material added 6/6/2009

7:10 - 9:00pm
Varnum House, 100 Main St, Jeffersonville

Attendees:

Peter Ingvaldstad, Dennis Shanley, Phyllis Shanley, Bill Sander, Joe Rogers, Jay Allen, Mark Schilling, Jim Robinson, Terry Shaw, Anne Rogers, Jane Shaw.

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.
- Green Mountain Relay
 - 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
 - Articles and columns
 - Cambridge Wiki startup
 - Community Front Page
 - Costs of website server and creating a front page
 - Economic Development
 - Logo / Front Page development
 - Community Center
 - Listing of existing facilities and possible uses
 - 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:

Project: Green Mountain Relay Race, June 20th, Jeffersonville to Bennington
We have plenty of volunteers to support the race.

Project: Gateway to Nature / Lamoille Valley Mentorship Partnership
Training for Tracking event on August 21st will have an orientation meeting in July - TBA. Peter Ingvaldstad will prepare an article for the newsletter.

Project: Jeffords Park
Suspended. Not this summer.

Introductions:

We had a new mix of members at this meeting, so we all introduced ourselves.

Peter Ingvoldstad for many years with Smuggs resort and active in the community; on the board of the Lamoille County Mentorship Partnership program; founder and motivator of Cambridge Crossroads, the Cambridge Trails work group and the Smugglers' Notch Gateway to Nature.

Dennis Shanley came for the skiing, stayed for the life style; retired CIO.

Phyllis Shanley came for husband Dennis, will probably stay forever; semi-retired computer geek.

Bill Sander came in early 1970s, lives in same house on Maple Street; active in Lamoille County school boards; newly elected to the Cambridge Select Board.

Joe Rogers formerly of IBM; active in Cambridge Historical Society, Treasurer for Crossroads.

Anne Rogers owns and manages summer cottages in Finger Lakes area of NY; lives here with husband Joe.

Jay Allen bought his first house in VT in 1993; teaches part time at UVM; active in Vermont Coverts.

Mark Schilling hot air balloonist; recently moved here from NJ; edits our community newsletter.

Jim Robinson brought his disabled son here for adaptive ski program at Smuggs 20 years ago; runs a small organic farm; is developing a horticultural therapy program.

Terry Shaw "picture hanger" and part time ski instructor at Smuggs, helping wife Jane realize her dream of restoring the Varnum house as an art gallery and museum.

Jane Shaw born here; studied Art History at Colby College (where she met Terry but didn't marry him until recently); returned to Jeff after seeing her home town in paintings by nationally known artists; helped Alden Bryan build the Mary Bryan Memorial Gallery; bought the Varnum property and restored it, putting it on the National Register in 1986, along with 89 other buildings in the village of Jeffersonville.



Jane and Terry very cordially hosted our meeting in the Victorian parlor of the Varnum house. [Picture is from her website, visionsofvermont.org.]

Crossroads Work Group Reports:

Report: Treasury

No change from last month. Joe reminded Phyllis to include the treasurer's reports in the minutes.

Report: Community Center

Peter explained how three committees that came out of the Forum in November 2008 have merged into the Communications Committee which is the heart of the Crossroads goal of bringing the community together. Our nomadic meetings of late serve to uncover the phenomenal capacity or various venues all over Town. This month we are at the Varnum House, last month we met upstairs at the Boyden Valley Winery, the month before it was the Historical Society's Warner Lodge. In the near future we may use the Sweet House or the Eagles Club. [Brown & Jenkins and Boyden Farm have hosted fund raisers for the Rotary and the Conservation Commission. A new Cambridge Farmers Market opens June 20th in the Brown & Jenkins parking lot.]

Report: Economic Development

Peter has reminded Pam Fiaschetti that we are hoping to use some of her work and she promised to "work on it tomorrow." Jim Robinson suggested the services of his neighbor's daughter, a Reynolds, who is a graphic artist in NJ. Another possibility is the school of graphic arts at Green Mt. Tech Center.

Report: Communications

Dennis gave a recap of the Communications Work Group meeting on May 27th

- Media spokesperson (Mark Schilling) to coordinate press releases, etc.
- Who sets Policy? - agreed we should keep policies loose for now and assign responsibilities.
- Advertising as revenue - agreed to table the issue until we have more experience.
- Community Front Page and Wiki - decided to develop on a “just do it” basis rather than inviting members to participate in design choices.

[See complete minutes of meeting at cambridgecrossroads.net.]

Topic: Community Front Page

Mark described the Front Page as a splashy greeting and a gateway or portal to Cambridge on the Web. It will link to many other sites and materials in the community. We already have a Calendar, a home page for Crossroads, and a number of other organizations have Web sites. What we want is to offer a directory.

Topic: Cambridge Municipal Web site

Mark underlined the need to separate the Municipal content from the other community content. Jane suggested the overall Web presence is needed and that the Town should pay for it. Bill said he's new on the Select Board but will bring up the subject. Dennis said he asked Jane Porter to put it on the agenda for the next Select Board meeting.

Topic: Cambridge Wiki

A wiki is an on-line encyclopedia written by its readers. We can set controls in various ways and monitor what people do. *Wikipedia*, the famous one, has become self-correcting in that users correct each other's content to insure accuracy. Content of a Cambridge community wiki could be considered folklore rather than a historical record. It should be open to anyone with Cambridge content, including businesses. [See an example at Jericho-Underhill's [Two-Towns Web site](#).]

Suggested content includes descriptions of the historic buildings around Town, like the Varnum House and the Boyden Farm, as well as some of the PLACE materials Claire Dacey prepared for us before the Forum. As soon as Phyllis gets a wiki set up, she will write a how-to and we will all see what happens.

Topic: Cambridge Newsletter

Dennis is researching an article about the 4th of July celebration. [Jane Shaw has shared a write-up about the history of the Varnum property for use in the newsletter, these minutes, the wiki, and any other use we can think of.]

Mark explained that we are “throwing things up to see what sticks”. The newsletter is starting out as e-mail but could well develop into a printed publication. There is still a need for non-Internet communication in our Town where many cannot get high-speed connections or are simply not interested in computerizing. Everyone is interested in what our community is doing.

Topic: Signs

Jane complained that we need better signs coming into our villages, especially from the Mountain Rd. The State has certain rules regarding a scenic corridor, so we may have some difficulty. Several of us want it to be known that the Notch is actually in the Town of Cambridge and the town line is some way down the other side of the Notch, hence the name Smuggler's Notch Area Chamber of Commerce.

The welcome signs we do have were originally paid for by the ski resort, Jane said, and are in need of repair or replacement. Peter asked Bill if new signs could be paid for by the Town. The url for our front page should be prominent on the signs and easy to remember - cambridgevt.com for example.

Report: Cambridge Trails

Joe said that Dave Severence of Cambridge Rescue is very interested in the trail mapping project. He would like to know access points for emergencies. Smuggs has provided him with GPS information for the Madonna Vasa XC-ski trail. Dave also pointed out that volunteers working with an established 501(c)3 non-profit, like Cambridge Rescue, have leverage for grants, etc.

Peter reports that Jen Robins is getting the Brewster River Uplands trails into a GPS map. The first draft of the map will be used to ask the permission of landowners. Peter has agreement forms from the Kingdom Trails that we can adapt. The next meeting of the Trails Work Group will be to assign volunteers to talk to specific landowners.

Report: Place Based Learning in Crossroads

Terry gave us a brief history of the Varnum property. The main house was built in 1878 by Harvey Varnum, an engineer. He started the Rock of Ages granite quarry in 1885, was in part responsible for building the Notch Road as a shortcut to Barre, and around 1890 built the stone monument at the end of Main St. in Jeff.

Mr. Varnum passed away in 1924, leaving his Jeff property to the Town to be used as a library for the high school (now CES). Since it was so hard to heat, only three small rooms were used for the library. The Town sold the property to the Pope family in 1928 for \$6000, which they used to build the present Varnum Library down the street.

Jane Shaw bought the property in poor condition in 1978. [She restored the carriage house first and lived in it, then, with Terry, tackled the main house. At one time she ran an ice cream parlor in the very parlor our meeting was in.]

Review Calendar

June 20th - Green Mountain Relay, Jeff

June 20th - Cambridge Farmers Market, Brown & Jenkins

August 15th - Arts Walk from 12-4 in Jeff, sponsored by the Arts Council

The next Crossroads general meeting will be at 7:00pm on Wednesday, July 1st at the Morse Highlands Base Lodge, Smuggs. Peter will send out a map with the agenda and give us a tour.

Meeting Adjourned:

Adjourn at 9:00 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.