



EAST VALLEY COMMUNITY GROUP
(EVCG)

Monthly Meeting Minutes, May 4, 2021
Meeting held via Zoom

Present: Betsy Race, Josie Carothers, Allison Belisle, Marcia Hammond, Elizabeth Lord, Joan Feierabend, Mark Kelley, John Pimental, Jane Terry, Christine Settles, Sarah Jolivette, Pat French

1. Meeting called to order by Co-Chair Betsy Race at 5:36 PM.
2. Introductions
3. Changes to the Agenda: none
4. Secretary's Report

Two corrections to the draft April 6 minutes were identified. First, the minutes will be revised to refer to the hall as the East Valley Community Hall (rather than the East Randolph Hall). A motion was made to call the building the “East Valley Community Hall” for all future discussions and references, except for any legal references which might conflict with the name. The motion was made by Mark Kelley, seconded by Joan Feierabend. No further discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

The second correction to the minutes is to specify the cost of the anonymous donor search used for fundraising purposes. The fee was billed at \$250. A motion to approve the April minutes with corrections was made by Joan Feierabend and seconded by Mark Kelley. No further discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Treasurer's Report

A motion to approve the April Treasurer's report was made by Marcia Hammond, and seconded by John Pimental. No further discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

Allison reported that the annual renewal fee for the maintaining the WordPress website is coming due soon. The cost to renew is \$114.00. Allison requests approval to pay the renewal fee and receive reimbursement.

Motion to reimburse Allison in the amount of \$114.00 for the website annual renewal was made by Marcia Hammond, and seconded by Mark Kelley. No further discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Committee Updates

a. Events Committee: Committee Chair, Marcia Hammond reported on the following activities:

- The window boxes at the East Valley Community Hall have been planted with pansies for the Spring.

- The porch quilts event is on schedule. The scavenger hunt will be held from July 1-31st. Sites will be in East Randolph, Randolph Center and Randolph downtown. There will be a \$5.00 fee for registration. Participants will have to pay the registration fee in order to win a prize, but no fee will be charged for receiving the clues for the hunt.
- Post Scavenger Hunt Celebration Party and BBQ: The Committee is also working on planning an awards event in August to give away prizes (porch quilts) from the Scavenger Hunt. The East Randolph Fire Department is interested to putting on a BBQ to coincide with the party.
- Vegetable stand: the stand with free veggies will be set up this summer in front of the hall. Joan said that EVCG can use the mound garden again this year to grow vegetables, but we will need to provide a work crew to assist her since she is still recovering from hip surgery.
- Bingo will be held on Wednesday nights. Planning and logistics are underway. Tables and chairs will need to be set up and taken down each time. EVCG will need four volunteers to run each event. Allison will write to the IRS to inform them of this activity, so that EVCG's non-profit status remains valid.
- The East Randolph Fire Department has offered to put up a tent up outside the hall for EVCG's use this summer. This might also provide an opportunity to organize additional activities through the Town Recreational Department.

b. Public Relations Committee: no update

c. Capital Campaign & Grants Committee: Committee Chair, Betsy Race, reported that the Committee is evaluating ways to move forward with the RFP (Request for Proposal) for hiring an architect to conduct the assessment of the building. Options include requesting additional money from the Town (\$20,000) during the next fiscal year to cover the gap in the bid estimates, consulting with Richard Smith an architect, and/or using monies from fundraising to be applied towards matching grants. Based on Betsy's discussions with Trini Brassard, another resource might be available through Two Rivers Ottauquechee Regional Planning Commission. The Regional Planning Commission has a program for community building and grants. Trini said she would look into this further.

The Committee also received the final bill from the fundraising consultant, Christine Graham. The majority of the fee for her services was paid through a grant from Preservation Trust of Vermont, however a shortfall of \$116.50 remains. A motion was made to authorize the Treasurer to pay the \$116.50 shortfall from EVCG's General Funds. Motion made by Josie Carothers, seconded by John Pimental. No further discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

Jane Terry mentioned that she had received information from Ashley Lincoln regarding the grant process for the Lamson Howell Foundation. Ashley indicated that the deadline for a new application is the end of this month. EVCG will send an updated letter.

7. Old Business

a. Welcome Sign: No update

b. Clock update: No update. Betsy will remove this as an item from the next agenda.

8. New Business

a. EVCG attendance at Selectboard Meetings: Discussion ensued on when EVCG should attend monthly Selectboard meetings. Reasons for attending include sharing information about EVCG activities and

events, and providing updates to the Board. It was decided that EVCG will attend the June meeting. Information about the July scavenger hunt can be presented at that time.

b. Meet new Town Manager: Co-Chairs Betsy Race and Josie Carothers reported that they sent Trevor Lashua a welcome letter and have invited him to attend EVCG meetings. Josie and Betsy also are encouraging EVCG members to reach out to Trevor and make an effort to meet him in person. Suggested talking points to discuss with Trevor include: soliciting support from the Town for funding EVCG projects, installation of the Welcome sign, and promoting community values in the East Valley.

9. Next meeting: first Tuesday, June 1, 2021 at 5:30 via Zoom.

10. The meeting was adjourned at 6:51 PM on a motion by Mark Kelley, seconded by John Pimental.