



EAST VALLEY COMMUNITY GROUP
(EVCG)

Monthly Meeting Minutes, August 10, 2021
Meeting held via Zoom

Present: Betsy Race, Josie Carothers, Allison Belisle, Elizabeth Lord, Joan Feierabend, Mark Kelley, Sarah Jolivette

1. Meeting called to order by Co-Chair Betsy Race at 5:36 PM.
2. Introductions
3. Changes to the Agenda: approval of the Secretary's report and Treasurer's report were moved to later in the agenda in order to wait for a quorum of EVCG members
4. Secretary's Report:

A motion to approve the July minutes was made by Mark Kelley and seconded by Josie Carothers. No further discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Treasurer's Report

Motion to approve the July Treasurer's report made by Joan Feierabend and seconded by Mark Kelley. No further discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

Allison reported that the scavenger hunt generated gross revenue of \$300.00 to \$400.00. Some of this money will be used for paying the musicians who played live music at the event.

6. Committee Updates

- a. Events Committee:

Bingo: Betsy reported that the weekly Bingo games sponsored and hosted by EVCG began in mid-July. There has been a steady increase in attendance each week. Only a few people came the first week, then 20 people came the next week and then 30 people came the following week. In addition to Bingo, there is also a silent auction table where people bring in items to donate, and the sale of breakaway tickets. This has been a terrific community event that has brought people together and has been very successful. There are five more weeks of Bingo scheduled.

Scavenger hunt: Allison reported that the scavenger hunt was a huge success. People had a lot of fun doing it and have provided a lot of positive feedback about the event. There were 52 entries. The Wrap-up party will be this Saturday. Over 40 porch quilts will be given away. The East Randolph Fire Department will put on a BBQ and ice cream will be provided by the Auxiliary.

Vegetable table outside the Community Hall: Joan reported that the giveaway table is off to a slow start because the harvest hasn't come into full production yet. Cucumbers and corn are just starting to ripen, but the kale and basil are wilting from the heat, and there aren't any tomatoes yet. It looks like there will be a good crop of cabbages though.

b. Public Relations Committee: Allison has been trying to ensure that EVCG events (such as the scavenger hunt and Bingo) get as much visibility and notice as possible. She has been putting EVCG events on every local calendar. This has been successful and generated some very good press for EVCG, including a really good article in the Valley News about the porch quilt project.

c. Capital Campaign & Grants Committee: Betsy reported that the Committee hasn't met for awhile, however Betsy, Josie, John and Mark met with Trevor and Trini recently to discuss the concerns and challenges about hiring an architect to assess the East Valley Community Hall. Trevor indicated that EVCG can go ahead and hire on our own. The Town will give EVCG the matching funds of 7,500. John Pimental has sent out requests to a list of companies, and requested a response by August 31.

7. Old Business

a. Welcome Sign: Betsy has been attempting to get information about the approval process and necessary paperwork for putting up the sign on private property. Betsy spoke with Mardee Sanchez, who suggested that EVCG fill out a permit application and attach an addendum to include details regarding responsibility for maintenance and upkeep. Betsy will try contacting the Chamber of Commerce and Randolph Rotary to see if they have any suggestions or prior experience with installing the welcome signs in Randolph. Mark will contact Joshua Jerome too.

8. New Business

Josie presented two ideas to consider for community projects in the future.

a. Tree planting in East Randolph Village: Josie suggests this could be a beautification project as well as provide good visibility for EVCG. This is a concept that could be expanded up and down the valley. Joan agreed and said there's historical precedent for this type of project. The villages of Tunbridge and Chelsea planted flowering crabapple trees along Route 14 in the 1970's. Josie will speak to Trini about who to contact in the Vermont Agency of Transportation or Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee Regional Commission (TRORC) and seek their input.

b. Rental housing shortage: In order to address the severe shortage of rental housing, one idea is to encourage co-housing or sharing of residential space. Josie suggests there might be a way to organize a project that encourages people open up their houses and rent a room or space to people who are looking for housing. This could be an opportunity for EVCG to team up with other organizations (for example, Vital Communities) and jointly address the housing problem.

9. Next meeting: first Tuesday, September 7, 2021 at 5:30 via Zoom.

10. The meeting was adjourned at 6:44 PM on a motion by Mark Kelley, and seconded by Josie Carothers.