



EAST VALLEY COMMUNITY GROUP
(EVCG)
Monthly Meeting Minutes, September 7, 2021
Meeting held via Zoom

Present: Betsy Race, Josie Carothers, Allison Belisle, Elizabeth Lord, Joan Feierabend, Mark Kelley, John Pimental, Jane Terry, Christine Settles, Sarah Jolivette, Trini Brassard

1. Meeting called to order by Co-Chair Betsy Race at 5:40 PM.
2. Introductions
3. Changes to the Agenda: Betsy requests to include discussion about tree planting from the prior meeting under “Old Business”
4. Secretary's Report

Betsy makes a correction to the minutes under Item 6c. regarding the Capital Campaign & Grants Committee. She explained that Josie, John and Mark were also part of the meeting.

A motion to approve the August minutes, with Betsy’s corrections, was made by Josie Carothers and seconded by Allison Belisle. No further discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Treasurer’s Report

A motion to approve the August Treasurer’s report was made by Joan Feierabend, seconded by Mark Kelley. No further discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Committee Updates

a. Events Committee: Joan reported on the harvest from the garden. She said she has been digging potatoes and bringing them to put out on the “free” table outside the East Valley Community Hall (the Hall). Unfortunately, the winter squash didn’t do well, and the raccoons got to the corn. Next year, Joan is planning on planting the dirt mound with wildflowers and use the other garden near her house for vegetables.

Allison reported that the August 14 Wrap Up Party was a great success and made for a memorable day. Everyone had a great time. Many people asked if EVCG will do scavenger hunt again. The East Randolph Fire Department did a great job with the barbeque. They sold out of chicken and kept operations going even during the pouring rain.

A reminder that tomorrow is the last night of Bingo for this season.

b. Public Relations Committee: The August 19th edition of the White River Valley Herald included a photo from the Wrap Up party which showed some of the firemen tending the barbeque. Allison mentioned that the scavenger hunt and party generated a lot of interest in the Hall. People have sent requests to the EVCG Facebook page with inquiries about renting the Hall.

c. Capital Campaign & Grants Committee: Betsy reported that EVCG has received two submittals in response to the Request for Proposal (RFP) for an architect. The Committee is meeting on Thursday of this week to consider the proposals and will make a recommendation to the larger group.

7. Old Business

a. Welcome Sign: Betsy reported that she contacted Rotary, the Chamber of Commerce and RACDC to obtain information on the process for sign approvals. A discussion then ensued in the EVCG meeting with questions regarding the details of maintenance and landscaping for the sign. Trini explained that if EVCG undertakes responsibility for actions on private property (such as maintenance or planting flowers) in its capacity as a 501(c)(3) group, the Town will require us to obtain insurance. Trini suggested that the details of maintenance and landscaping don't need to be included in the application. She recommends EVCG to simply submit an application and seek approval for the sign.

A motion was made to authorize Betsy to sign the application on behalf of EVCG (acting in its capacity as an Advisory Committee, not as a 501(c)(3)). The application will not include an addendum regarding maintenance and mowing. Motion made by Mark Kelley and seconded by Josie Carothers.

Tree planting: Trini explained that planting trees adjacent to the road or within the Right of Way (ROW) is a problem. Trees pose a maintenance issue and costs for VTrans (Vermont Agency of Transportation) to cut back tree branches that grow into the roadway. Prior attempts to do a sidewalk project in East Randolph failed because the Town doesn't own the ROW.

8. Next meeting: first Tuesday, October 5, 2021 at 5:30 via Zoom.

9. The meeting was adjourned at 6:54 PM on a motion by John Pimental, and seconded by Allison Belisle.