



EAST VALLEY COMMUNITY GROUP
(EVCG)

Monthly Meeting Minutes, January 4, 2022
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 Jolivet

1. Meeting called to order by Co-Chair Betsy Race at 5:35 PM.

The meeting began with a welcoming of the New Year and a review of EVCG's activities over the prior year. Collectively, the group noted highlights for the following activities in 2021:

- the Porch Quilt Scavenger Hunt and Wrap-Up Celebration Party with a Barbeque hosted by the East Randolph Fire Department
- a weekly Bingo event was held in the East Valley Community Hall (the Hall) for eight weeks
- EVCG hired an architect to conduct a structural assessment of the Hall and prepare a report with recommendations for the renovation
- a grant received from the Lamson Howell Foundation enabled EVCG to hire an architect
- the Events Committee created winter snowmen built from recycled bicycle wheels and put them in several locations around the East Valley, including the East Randolph Post Office and the Middle Branch Market.
- the annual vegetable garden on "the Mound" provided free vegetables that were distributed outside the Hall
- distribution of a quarterly EVCG newsletter
- news of EVCG's activities appeared in several newspapers including the White River Valley Herald and The Valley News

2. Introductions - none

3. Changes to the Agenda: none

4. Secretary's Report:

The Secretary presented the draft minutes for December and noted a modification to Item 8a: The minutes should reflect that Allison will forward the bill to Mark and John for approval. When approved, Allison will then send the bill to the Town with a request to pay it's portion first, before EVCG starts drawing from its account.

A motion to approve the December minutes, with the modifications noted, was made by Mark Kelley and seconded by Joan Feierabend. No further discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Treasurer's Report

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

The Treasurer reported there was no new revenue in December. There was one reimbursement. Otherwise, everything else in the account remains unchanged.

6. Election of Officers

Betsy reported that three officer positions are up for renewal. These positions include the two Co-Chair positions and the Secretary. All three positions will become open.

The group discussed how to fill those positions and how to redefine the roles and responsibilities. A central question is how to balance the responsibilities and tasks of the Chair and to lighten the Chair's burden. Betsy explained that as the Chair, she has spent much of her time and energy trying to keep track of all the tasks and details related to EVCG's projects. When EVCG was first formed several years ago, she had envisioned that the two co-chairs would share the load and responsibility, whereas in reality this has not been the case. She would like to see these responsibilities more evenly shared with clearly defined roles. A group discussion ensued on this. The consensus was an acknowledgment that the Chair's position requires someone with strong organizational skills and leadership, however some of the oversight of individual tasks could be shifted to others in the group. The Chair's position should be something like that of a manager or conductor of the train, whereas responsibility for tracking the details and implementing the activities could be delegated (either to a Vice-Chair or the subcommittees). The group needs to give more thought to this and revise the EVCG Operating Procedures to redefine the officer roles.

Joan suggested that EVCG put something on Front Porch Forum to solicit interest in the positions and explain what EVCG does. Marcia, John, and others also thought this was a good idea.

Allison suggested scheduling a separate meeting to work on revisions to the EVCG Operating Procedures. She offered to take the lead on this effort. She will work on some preliminary revisions to the Operating Procedures and then will circulate a draft to the group. The meeting will be next week on January 11 at 6:00.

Allison made a motion to postpone election of the officers until the next monthly EVCG meeting. The motion was seconded by John Pimental. No further discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

7. Committee Updates

a. Events Committee: Marcia reported that the snowmen sculptures made from bicycle wheels are up. Bobbie has created some ice lanterns. If the weather is cold enough in February, the Events Committee might put ice lanterns in front of the Hall and encourage the community to join in by making and displaying their own ice lanterns. The Committee has decided the logistics of hosting a community sledding party would be too difficult (regarding parking and bathrooms), however the Committee is looking into other ideas for outdoor winter sports, such as the possibility of an ice rink.

b. Public Relations Committee: Marcia is working on a newsletter for January. The White River Valley Herald recently included a photo of Christine's snowman sculpture (made from bicycle wheels) in the newspaper.

c. Capital Campaign & Grants Committee: the Grants Committee is meeting on Monday January 10 and reviewing the spreadsheet. Capital Campaign Committee is also meeting on January 10 to get their organizational plan going. They will review the pamphlet they are working on and will review a list of potential donors.

8. Old Business

a. Welcome Sign: Betsy sent a quote from Rule Signs and Graphics to the Town Manager, Trevor Lashua. The quote includes two different sizes. Trevor said either sign could be funded.

Allison Belisle made a motion to request the larger sign. Josie Carothers seconded the motion. No further discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

The group next discussed the question of what message to include on the back of the side. Mark Kelley made a motion to include the message: "Thanks for visiting the East Valley!" on the back. The motion was seconded by John Pimental. No further discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

9. New Business

a. Architect news: Mark reported that the preliminary report from the architect (Bread Loaf) has been submitted. The report includes site plans and drawings of the building. Bread Loaf recommends tearing out all of the foundation, except for the portion of the foundation at the back of the building. Other details in the report include changing the outside handicapped access to the rear of the building and providing a new set of internal stairs up to the balcony. The main floor roof and attic have not been evaluated yet. The report notes there are limitations on use of the water supply and septic disposal. Under the terms of the existing state permit issued by the Wastewater Division, the septic system can serve up to 63 people; and the water supply can serve up to 25 people at one event, and no more than 60 days per year. If EVCG wants to hold larger events, EVCG would either need to rent portable toilets or else pump the septic tank each time before a schedule event. Betsy said that there should be records of the septic design. She suggested Mark could contact Harold Hooker (buildings and grounds) or Kevin Taylor at the East Randolph Fire Department.

A more complete report will be forthcoming in the next month or so. After that, a Community meeting will be held.

10. Next meeting: first Tuesday of the month, February 1, 2022 at 5:30 via Zoom.

11. The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 PM on a motion by Mark Kelley, and seconded by Josie Carothers.