



EAST VALLEY COMMUNITY GROUP  
(EVCG)

Monthly Meeting Minutes, August 2, 2022 - Final  
Meeting held via Zoom

Present: Betsy Race, Allison Belisle, Christine Settles, Peggy Whiteneck, Joan Feierabend, Sarah Jolivette, Marcia Hammond, John Pimental, Bobbie Kimberly

1. Meeting called to order by Chair Betsy Race at 5:37 PM.
  
2. Introductions and Celebrations: no new attendees, Hal and Amelia are in place and people love them! People in the Village are taking it upon themselves to reposition them occasionally. The free veggie table is set up in front of the Hall, everyone is welcome to give or take some veggies.
  
3. Changes to the Agenda: Item 7c may be addressed as part of the Hall updates too.
  
4. Secretary's Report:
  - a. Approval of Minutes: A motion to approve the July minutes was made by John Pimental and seconded by Joan Feierabend . No further discussion. The motion passed unanimously.
  - b. Action items - reviewed, Mark's item was left on the list as he was not available to report
  
5. Treasurer's Report
  - a. Allison gave an overview of the Treasurer's report. A motion to approve the July Treasurer's report was made by John Pimental, and seconded by Marcia Hammond. No further discussion. The motion passed unanimously.
  
6. Committee Updates
  - a. Events Committee: The free veggie table and tent are set up, the garden is starting to produce and folks are welcome to bring any excess produce from their own gardens. Bingo is going well with \$1,000.00 netted in the month of July. Betsy reminded us that Bingo set up starts at 5pm and it's helpful to have people arrive near that time so that set up is complete by the time people start to arrive, usually around 5:30. Art on the Farm is scheduled for August 27 at Sprague Ranch. Joan, Marcia, Bobbie, John will be in attendance to represent EVCG, set up will begin around 8:30am.

b. Public Relations Committee: nothing to report

c. Capital Campaign: nothing to report

d. Grant Committee: nothing to report

e. Hall Committee: The community meeting was well attended, with 25 in attendance. One item that came up for consideration was the potential need for more parking at the Hall. Two different pieces of land were identified as possible locations for additional parking. Peggy reached out to the owners of the parcels in question and is still in conversation with them both about the possibility of a purchase or use agreement. One property owner did indicate that it would be ok to use their site for parking while we figured out the details of a possible purchase.

The idea of a bond proposal to raise funds to cover the cost of rehabbing the Hall was considered as well. The Town will not be able to support a new bond proposal until March 2025, so there is some time to consider this option if necessary.

Peggy and Betsy met with Trini to follow up after the meeting. One idea that came out of that meeting was to look at grants or other financial support available through the Preservation Trust and Green Mountain Economic Development Corporation.

Now that we have the architect's drawing there are several items of business to be considered:

- Are the fire suppression systems recommended in the architect's plan required by the fire marshal? What is the least amount of work that needs to be put in to get the building up to code in that regard? Betsy will arrange a meeting with the fire marshal to discuss this, the entire group will be invited to that meeting.
- Which of the various options outlined in the architect's plans does the group want to move forward with? John has requested an excel version of the report so that it can be organized a little differently to allow us to see the various choices and their cost impact. A group will meet on Thursday, August 11 at 6pm at the Hall to review the options and begin the process of narrowing them down.
- We will need a structural engineer to develop building specifications based on the drawings and the options that we choose. Due to our status as a town committee, EVCG needs to have and follow a procurement process. Allison will look at templates for procurement policies and bring a draft to the group for review.

There was discussion around how motivated the group is to pursue the full scope of the project as outlined in the architect's documents. We came to a consensus that we'd rather focus on raising money to hire the structural engineer to design specs that will allow us to get the building opened in the shortest time frame. This is likely to include foundation work and ADA and other code related compliance concerns. We want to get the ball rolling on just getting into the building and then we can consider expanding or modifying the scope of work. By September we would like to be working on grant proposals, connecting with Senator Sanders' office on how to apply for ARPA funds, and setting up teams of capital campaign fundraisers.

## 7. Old Business

a. Welcome Sign: there is a chance that the sign will be installed on Monday, August 8. If not then, soon!

b. Purchase of a sandwich board - Marcia researched sandwich boards. Her recommendation is in the \$150 range. Joan made a motion to spend no more than \$200 to purchase a sandwich board, Allison seconded the motion. No further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

c. Update on ARPA funds - Peggy reached out to Senator Sanders' office and was told that someone

from his staff would be happy to have a meeting with the group to go over how to apply for ARPA funds. Peggy will organize this meeting.

8. New Business:

a. Selectboard Meeting Attendance - We'd like to have a regular presence at Randolph Selectboard meetings starting in August. There is an open comment period at the beginning of the meetings and we would like to have the opportunity to update the Selectboard on our progress and keep the Hall in the front of their minds. Betsy will attend on August 11.

b. Veggie Table - John reported that he checked in with Greybar Farm to let them know that we would be setting up a free veggie table in front of the Hall and to make sure that this would not be a burden on them (the Route 66 farm stand has been closed and they are now operating on Rt 14 N at the farm itself). They are fine with our plan.

c. Bingo - Christine wants to deposit some of the money earned on Bingo into the EVCG bank account. Allison will send the bank info.

ACTION ITEMS:

Betsy - arrange to get the Welcome to the East Valley sign installed (possibly August 8), set up meeting with the fire marshal and connect with Trini regarding the Preservation Trust, et al.

Marcia - send Allison the sandwich board information, attend Art on the Farm as an EVCG representative.

Allison - order sandwich board sign, research procurement policies.

Mark - call Julie Ifland (carried forward from June).

Peggy - set up a meeting with Will Stevens from Senator Sanders' office, continue to correspond with current owners of possible expansion lots, attend any meeting with fire marshal and/or Trini/PT/GMEDC.

John - obtain an excel version of the Breadloaf proposal and update it so that we can easily filter and isolate information for better decision making, attend any meeting with fire marshal and/or Trini/PT/GMEDC.

9. Next meeting: first Tuesday, September 6, 2022 at 5:30 via Zoom.

10. The meeting was adjourned at 7:11 PM on a motion by Marica Hammond and seconded by Joan Feierabend.