

LEE GREETERS COMMITTEE MINUTES

Tuesday, July 18, 2023; 7:00 pm

Members Present: Judith Belanger (Chair), Jennifer Messeder, Katrin Kasper (Select Board liaison)

Members Absent: Liz Stone

Public Present: Catherine Fisher

I. Call meeting to order: 7:00pm

- a. Welcome guests: Catherine Fisher
- b. Other: N/A

II. Administrative tasks

- a. Approve Agenda – Approved by consensus
- b. Approve Minutes of June 20 – Approved by consensus

III. Events

- a. Group walk with neighbors, 7/26; Rec Comm's ad; Me Too game? – all

We decided to start the walk at 5pm. Catherine says that a walk takes about 45 mins to an hour, depending on how many questions there are, and how many stops. She recommends the River Trail because it has more habitats (three) than other trails at Little River Park.

We can make the August 23 Farmers Market our rain date.

Liz has said in the past that she collects contact information for new residents who would like to be contacted by the Greeters.

Jen reviewed the Me Too game she saw on Facebook. We could use this as needed, if the group is small. Maybe with the added rule of "no politics."

ACTIONS:

- Judy to ask Caren Rossi about the ad.
- Judy to let Liz know she can email the details of the walk to new residents.

- b. Lee Fair, 9/16; Planning doc – all

We reviewed and updated the planning doc that's on SharePoint.

We need to get the Select Board's permission to have a silent auction.

Each auction item will have a bidding list that shows the name of each bidder and their bid. People can come back and bid a higher amount if they like. We will have another list that contains bidders' contact information, so we can let winners know they won. We'll determine a start and finish time for bidding, possibly announcing the winners at the dinner (assuming there will be a dinner).

ACTIONS:

- Jen to fill out and submit a request to be added to the Select Board's 7/24 meeting.
- Everyone check the planning doc on occasion to remind yourself what action items are yours.

IV. Status of gifts and lists

- a. Andy Robertson's response; Electronic Media Policy 2015 - all

We composed our questions and sent them to Denise Duval and Andy on 6/26/23.

Andy's 6/27/23 reply to our questions:

"Jumping in with some background. In the spring of 2021 the select board had the town administrator advise all dept. heads and employees that they had adopted a policy of not providing business recommendations or listings to the public. This decision came on the heels of a legal matter the town was involved in. As a result of this communication we (dept. heads and Denise and myself) have been careful to separate businesses from the municipal communications, a policy that many towns also adhere to.

"In reviewing your initial request with Denise I looked at what neighboring communities offered for content regarding local business and church listings. I found no surrounding communities listing churches and the number of towns listing business directories was limited to Durham and Newmarket, both of whom have economic development committees who partner with their town business associations to provide business listings. Other communities I found farther afield typically had the same type of arrangement (Peterborough is a good example - https://www.peterboroughnh.gov/community/peterborough_welcome_team.php).

“With regard to other questions; I am not aware of any town policy regarding soliciting donations and recognizing the donors. I have attached the town electronic media policy for your review, I believe the technology committee is planning to review and make recommendations regarding this policy in the near future. I would really prefer to keep municipal committees, etc... on central platforms for RSA 91A reasons and for control of content, but this is something the Greeters could certainly discuss with the select board.”

Katrin added this from the last Select Board meeting:

This isn't the first time that a committee has done a lot of work only to be told after the fact that they couldn't do what they were doing. The time to tell the committee they are off course is as soon as the issue is noticed. The Artisan Directory that the Sustainability Committee has been working on for years was never going to be approved.

The issue with mentioning businesses is when an employee gave a specific recommendation to a resident, the resident hired that business and something went wrong.

I [Katrin] added during that discussion that comprehensive lists are not recommendations and should be allowed.

For Faith Communities, the interpretation is that the list should not live on the Town site, but that Town employees can have a list available if someone asks.

The discussion isn't over.

Katrin added that the Greater Barrington Chamber of Commerce (<https://barringtonchamber.org/>) supposedly covers Lee.

The Electronic Media policy was adopted in 2015 and has not officially been updated since then. It says it pertains to the Town web site and the E-Crier, but it seems to be applied informally to employee actions. It also seems to be applied differently in different situations. For example, our Pets and Wildlife list was rejected because it “recommended” businesses, but the Agricultural Commission has electronic versions of the Agriculture and Farm brochure on their page.

Jen tried to find the Policy on the Town's site and noted that the Ordinances button on the Select Board's page has a non-secure link that throws a security warning. She has made MTAC aware of the link issue.

Katrin suggests narrowing down to one thing that we most want to achieve, but wait a month before requesting it to let things settle down.

The next most important thing is probably the Kids Stuff list. We'll limit the day cares to ORCSD towns.

We discussed what sorts of Religious Events are now allowed in the E-Crier – schedules of services? No, it's limited to things like the Church barbeque or other social-type events that happen to take place at a house of worship. However, Vacation Bible School is being advertised. We need a clear definition of religious news and events that are vs are not allowed.

ACTIONS:

- Judy to work on the Kids Stuff list, for a future conversation with Denise and/or Andy.
- Jen to add Recommendation and Religious News/Events to our comments about the Policy.

b. Scheduling Zoom meeting with Andy - all

Let's wait on this. MTAC is supposed to be working on the policy, and we will let them take point. We will assist in whatever way we can.

ACTIONS:

- Jen to let Andy know that we're letting MTAC take point on any meetings.
- Jen to send to MTAC our conversations so far.

V. Donations

a. Thank You message; published in E-Crier – Judy

The message has been published. This task is complete.

b. Donation requests (Erick Sawtelle, Lee Artisans) – Judy, Jen

We haven't heard anything about gift donations since our June meeting.

ACTIONS:

- Judy to ask Liz how many gifts are left.
- Judy to follow up with Erick.
- Jen to ask Dean Rubine (Sustainability Committee) for the Artisan list from 2022.

- c. Funds and fundraising; draft tracker – Jen, all

A draft tracker is on SharePoint. We'll need to evolve and improve it as we learn how committee funds are tracked by the Town.

VI. SharePoint

- a. Update from Jen and MTAC?

MTAC is making some progress, but more needs to be done.

- b. Questions, concerns, obstacles – all

None. SharePoint is working well for us.

VII. Additional business: LRAC often needs the 2nd floor meeting room for presentations. We offered to switch rooms on a permanent basis and LRAC agreed. Jen to ask Denise to change us to the 1st floor for the rest of the year.

Meeting dates are Wed 8/23, Tues 9/19, 10/17, 11/21, 12/19.

VIII. Meeting adjournment

Next meeting is Wed 8/23.

Judy moved to adjourn. Jen seconded. Approved 2-0.

Meeting adjourned at 8:44 pm