

**GWC Minutes**  
**Wednesday, May 6, 2020**  
**1:00 pm**  
**VIRTUAL MEETING**

**Call to order:**

**In Attendance:** Sarah Flack, Jonathan Delabreure, Sarah Montgomery, Julie Wolcott, Melanie Riddle

**Approval of agenda:** JW, SM

**Approval of previous meeting minutes:** JW, SM

**GRANT UPDATES** (grants that are being implemented):

**Community Center:**

- Dreyfus: \$5,000 received In 2019. Earmarked for heating system repair.
- VT Mutual Insurance: Received \$2,500 in 2019. Earmarked for heating system repair.
- VT Community Foundation: \$500 for the food shelf.
- VT Foodbank: \$350 for the food shelf.
- VT Community Foundation Spark Connecting Community Grant: Received \$3000 for Youth programs. Sarah F. noted that they will need to see if they can roll this (and potentially other grants) over into 2021 due to having to cancel some programs this year.
- Payroll Protection Program loan: Received \$4,800. Will not have to be repaid if they meet guidelines of using it for payroll.
- Ben & Jerry's Community Action Team Grant: Received \$3000 for the Food Shelf.
- 1772 Foundation: Received \$10,000 for exterior paint on the meeting house.
- New England Federal Credit Union: Received \$625 for youth program scholarships. FCC will be looking into if this can be rolled over to 2021.

**Library:**

- Vermont Community Foundation: \$2,500 received for Teen room project. This project is meant to be done in conjunction with the teens, teaching them financial literacy and inclusion, while planning and spending the budget on furniture for the teen room. Due to current restrictions, Sarah M. plans to try to do this virtually, later in the year, or will request to roll the funds over to 2021.

**Town:**

- Recreational Facilities Grant: Fairfield Center ball fields project. Hoping to finish out within the next month or so. \$2,000 remaining to be spent. The recreation committee was waiting for fields to dry out before doing the final work.

- Sidewalk Grant: Jonathan just got word from V trans that we could go ahead with construction. May 25th is the planned start date. Tentative completion date will be toward the end of July.
- South Rd. Culvert Replacement: Construction will be done this summer between July 1st and Oct. 1st. Probably July 1st start date.
- Grant in Aid through Regional Planning Commission: Stormwater mitigation work of lapp road.
- Rise VT: For rec. Committee: Received \$1,500 for the volleyball project.

Other town news: New town plan is in process. Zoning just got passed. Town plan is soon to follow, but is currently on hold until more public input can be heard. Northwest planning commission working to help.

#### **School:**

- No current grants.

#### **OUTSTANDING GRANTS:**

##### **Community Center:**

- Dreyfus: For youth programs with some overhead. Submitted in May.
- VT Mutual Insurance: Sarah F. and Melanie are currently working on it putting this application together. For food security/food shelf.
- VT Arts Council Cultural Facilities Grant: For 50% of cost to replace the heating system. Application has been submitted by the Meeting House.
- VT Arts Council covid 19 cultural relief grant program: To cover lost income from cancelling the summer concert series. Application not yet submitted.
- Windham: Was sent 2/7. For youth programs. Requested \$13,610 tota. Waiting to hear back.
- Agnes Lindsey: Was sent 2/7. Requested \$3,000 for youth program scholarships. Waiting to hear back.
- TD Bank: Sponsorship of Jig in the Valley. Requested \$5000. Waiting to hear back.
- TD Bank Charitable grant: For food shelf. Requested \$5000. Waiting to hear back.
- Canaday: LOI was sent in the end of January. For youth programming with some building repair. Total requested was \$19,910, which includes \$6,300 for energy/ heat system. Waiting to hear back.
- Irving grant: Sent 4/27. For youth programming for \$3000/year for 3 years. Waiting to hear back.
- VSECU: Requested \$1,500 for food security/food shelf/senior meals. Sent 5/4.
- Tarrant: Plan to apply for youth programming. Due in April. Application is already Drafted.
- Esther B Kahn: Considering applying for. Application is due in December 2020.
- Perrigo: Considering applying for. Application is due in October 2020.

**Library:**

- No outstanding grants.

**Town:**

- Historical Preservation Grant: Did not receive. This was for a roof for the common school. Jonathan recommends holding off on applying for more grants for the common school until we know more about what the building will be used for once the school vacates the building
- Ben & Jerry's: Did not receive. Request was for "fall ball games project" (balls and jerseys). Will consider reapplying during the next cycle.

**School:**

- No outstanding grants.

**WISH LIST:**

- Pavilion
- Field Space for ball fields
- Economic Development
- More representation at GWC meetings
- Recreation trail maintenance
- Outdoor Classroom Vehicle
- Building Updates for FCC
- Youth Programs - FCC and BNML
- Food Shelf Support
- Garage/ Fire Station Generator
- Automatic External Defibrillators throughout town - Jonathan saw an opportunity for this through aedgrant.com
- Sidewalks in East Fairfield & Connectivity of Fairfield Center to the rail trail.
  
- Updated Project List

Other:

**Old Business (Follow-Up):****Parking Lot:**

- Pond/ Beach

**New Business:**

- GrantWatch subscription - Melanie resubscribed so we wouldn't miss anything specific pertaining to COVID-19.
- COVID-19 Updates and needs:
  - Community Center - decrease in revenue due to having to cancel the jig in the valley and the summer concert series. Were able to get PPP loan, which allows them to continue to pay all staff. The Meeting house has also applied for some funds to help cover lost income. The food shelf is currently seeing around a 30% increase in demand for food and they are expecting that to continue to increase as people are unemployed for longer. They are able to order more food from the Vermont Food Bank, so are spending more money, but have also received some additional funds to offset that. Will definitely need to write more grants/ do more fundraising for the food shelf. No senior meals currently, so they are not spending money there, but they also are not receiving weekly donations from seniors and are still paying the chef.
  - Library - Concerned about possible tax revenue deficit. Operating budget for 2020 is actually running on last year's tax revenue, so the town will not know if there is a problem until it is time to pay taxes this year (in the fall). Around November, the town will more clearly be able to determine what financial difficulties we may face. It will more affect the 2021 budgets for town departments.
  - Town. Some grants from V Trans and other organizations may be affected due to lack of state level funds. Will plan on reevaluating and regrouping once there is more information.

**Agenda items for next meeting:**

- Committee roles & responsibilities. Jonathan will check in to see if non-residents can be committee members.

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, August 6th, 1:30pm at Bent Northrop Memorial Library**

**Meeting Adjourned: 2:10pm**