

Maple Corner Community Center Board meeting - January 22, 2019

Present: Pres. Dirk Van Susteren, Andrew Nemethy, Carolyn Morton, Jamie Moorby, treasurer Steve Sweeney, Ann Marie John, former treasurer John Rosenblum

Maple Corner Store proposal

Jamie Moorby provided another update on efforts to have a community group purchase and run the Maple Corner store and spelled out in additional detail the process being looked at to raise funds. She wanted to bring the board up to date in part because if the proposed community purchase is undertaken, she said it will be important to jump immediately into fundraising.

Moorby said the MCCC's participation as a conduit for tax deductible donations is being considered as part of any fundraising plan and she wanted to keep the board apprised of that part of the plan. How much money will need to be raised and how much people might donate is uncertain at this point, she said. If the board approved being a conduit, the plan is the community donations for the purchase would be held by the MCCC and then used to help purchase the store.

As former treasurer, Rosenblum offered some concerns about potential reporting requirements for the IRS if the MCCC acts as a financial conduit, and accounting requirements as well. "We're going to need a lawyer or an

accountant to figure out what works or what doesn't," he said.

Carolyn Morton seconded that notion, saying the MCCC will need to perform "due diligence" before it agrees to act in any financial capacity for fundraising. She said she backed the idea of the purchase and it was an important development for Maple Corner, but noted the board didn't have enough details yet to sit down and discuss things with a lawyer. Dirk Van Susteren summed up that the board's sentiment seems to be that "we're in favor" of keeping the store going.

John Rosenblum and Andrew Nemethy both said they would do some research to find an attorney in Vermont with expertise in nonprofit organization law to consult in case the MCCC is formally asked to participate in plans for the store's purchase. .

Other Business

Chinese chef Steve' Bogart's wife has offered to make curtains for the MCCC as part of a plan to try and reduce heat loss through the windows upstairs, and also noise levels when there is a crowd. The board welcomed her offer and Carolyn Morton said she would look at comparative costs of using windows blinds as an alternative.

The Board voted to approve expending money already in the budget on repairs to the entryway and also to have an

electrician add outdoor outlets to the MCCC so it will be easier to cook outdoors during fundraising dinners. Currently extension cords have to be run and borrowed to do the outdoor cooking.

The board also agreed to have Jamie Moorby explore the cost of replacing the current tank water heater with an on-demand propane system that could better keep up with hot water needs for washing dishes during big community dinners.

Submitted by Board Secretary Andrew Nemethy