

## **Maple Corner Community Center Board Meeting March 8, 2021, via Zoom**

Present: President Dirk Van Susteren, Carolyn Morton, Andrew Nemethy, Peter Burke, John Rosenblum, Steve Sweeney, Jamie Moorby, Bill Powell

The board met virtually to discuss renewed usage of the MCCC as the state reopens after COVID19; changing the Internet provider at the MCCC; coordination with, and promotion of, the Maple Corner Store; and potential maintenance at the center. The board also welcomed newly appointed Treasurer Bill Powell to his first meeting.

**Internet:** Manager Jamie Moorby reported that after 3 years, the introductory rate for Internet from Consolidated Communications has expired and the rate jumped \$30 to over \$100 a month. Discussion ensued on whether it makes sense to switch to another provider such as Comcast, which offer much faster broadband without the three year contract requested from CC but would be slightly more expensive. Pros and cons of dropping the landline phone and using Internet service calling were also broached. No decision was made and Moorby said she would do some research on options and report back.

**Maple Corner Store;** The board discussed avenues of coordination to promote the community store through participation in the recently formed *Friends of the Maple Corner Store* group. John Rosenblum, who serves on the Friends as the MCCC representative, reported on efforts

to broaden outreach to the community. A website link now sits on the MCCC website for the store, and he is working with former MCCC board member Olivia Gay to strengthen community bonds with the store beyond those who own shares. He noted the store's board is focused on operations after "6 out of 6 managers have quit" and is working to get some stability. Peter Burke noted that challenges and opportunities lie ahead when the popular Whammy Bar is able to reopen again for business.

**MCCC usage and maintenance:** Moorby was asked by Dirk Van Susteren about the condition of the MCCC building after a year of very little usage due to COVID19 and she said it was in "good shape." She has been checking water and heat in the building and other than a furnace inspection coming up, no problems have arisen. Moorby reported that the Easter egg hunt previously handled by the Maple Corner Store will be run by the MCCC this year.

The board then discussed at length how and when to reopen the MCCC for events and usage, Moorby said she keeps a close eye on Vermont's Health Department Guidance on how and when people can gather and in what numbers. Carolyn Morton suggested this will be a topic that we need to keep on top of as the state expands rules on gatherings.

Moorby said it will be interesting to see if previous users of the MCCC return to offer in-person classes after Covid. Morton noted the MCCC may need to adapt to changes brought about by the pandemic, and Moorby said one change she has looked at is adding an online payment

portal on the website for rentals or dinners put on by the MCCC. Roesenblum said there are simple online payment systems that can be used and Andrew Nemethy said he would forward a list of low-cost payment systems tailored to nonprofits.

A question was asked about the fact the MCCC is listed by the town as a shelter and emergency site and what the ramifications and responsibilities are as a result. Treasurer Bill Powell said he would check with the town to get more information.

No further business being noted, the board agreed to adjourn.