

## **Maple Corner Community Center Board Meeting Sept. 22, 2021**

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

### **Curtis Pond Dam**

Center manager Jamie Moorby briefed the board on developments on the renewed urgency to get approval to replace the Curtis Pond Dam. Moorby, who is also a member of the Curtis Pond restoration group, wanted to gauge interest on the board to operate as a nonprofit “pass through” entity for fundraising similar to what was done with the Maple Corner Store. She said the group behind the dam proposal consulted a nonprofit lawyer who assured them the board’s participation was “even more clearly permissible” than it had been with the store.

Moorby explained that the complex project funding as many partners and timelines that may include state, town and federal money. To get the project started it may require require some “soft costs” of up to \$100,000 for engineering to lever the rest of the funding and advance the project. According to Moorby, the project is hoping to raise \$60-\$100,000 to put in an escrow account for this preliminary work and asked for board approval to have the MCCC as a nonprofit hold those funds until needed.

Board members, aware that the failure of the dam posed a

threat to the whole village as well as a treasured recreational resource of Curtis Pond, agreed that was a worthwhile request.

In a unanimous voice vote, the board stated that the center backs the effort to repair the dam and agrees to act as a pass-through escrow entity to receive and hold any donations for the project.

### **Flag Proposal**

The board met in person at the MCCC and had a lengthy discussion about whether displaying a rainbow flag (or any other flag) was in the center's interest as a local nonprofit and in its charter to foster community.

The issue was prompted by an offer from a local citizen to display a rainbow flag in response to the destruction and removal of a flag in town from someone's driveway. The board expressed dismay at the act but expressed varied concerns: that displaying any flag as a symbol could prompt others to request the center fly another kind of flag; that displaying a flag could lead to vandalism at the center; and that putting up a flag for one cause or another could do the opposite of fostering community.

"You realize you set a precedent in doing that," said Peter Burke." I have some reservations about us doing it." Others noted that once you "take a side" there is likely someone on the other side who will ask for their side to be

represented. President Van Susteren observed that could lead to a “tit for tat” scenario;.

Treasurer Bill Powel said he thought it would be best to have a written public policy in place explaining how the MCCC decides what to display if a flag was going to be put up. He also noted there is no set place to hang a flag at present, while others noted concern that if flags were hung in a window that might invite vandals to break it.

In the end, the board decided it could raise the issue at the annual meeting but that it seemed wise as a community organization to think about the long-term responsibility of the board to reflect the entire community and not appear to advocate for any view through use of a flag.

### **New Well Update**

MCCC manager Jamie Moorby updated the board on the recently drilled artesian well and the related updating of the electric hot water heater with installation of a more efficient and higher producing on-demand unit. Powell, who oversaw the drilling and revamping of the water system, said everything went smoothly, though some costs were higher than anticipated. Powell reported the new well was 252 feet and has good water at 20 gpm. He informed the board that the two previous shared connections on the old water lines will need to be isolated and disconnected from the system to preserve the new system’s water quality.

The board voted to approve spending \$600 to finish the final work on the new well and water lines.

### **Other Business**

Rick Dryfoos introduced himself to the board as the new owner of the home across the street and explained that he was interested in serving on the board. Dryfoos previously was on the board of the Adamant Cooperative and said he wanted to be involved in the community. The board welcomed his interest and agreed to consider him for an open seat.