

Maple Corner Community Center Annual Meeting

Oct. 7, 2021

Present: President Dirk Van Susteren, Andrew Nemethy, Steve Sweeney, Jamie Moorby, Peter Burke, Bill Powell, Rick Dryfoos, Carolyn Morton. Guest" OLivia Gay

The Maple Corner Community Center Board met at the center for its annual meeting to approve an operating budget and address other issues with members of the community. The meeting was unusually brief and few public members showed up as the pandemic continues to limit operations at the center.

Treasurer Bill Powell and MCCC manager Jamie Moorby walked through some modest changes in the budget, noting considerable uncertainties about usage, income, fundraising efforts and the impacts on the overall budget. The board discussed changes to the \$31,766 budget for the fiscal year 2022, a slight increase over 2021 to account for two unexpected increases of roughly \$1000 for the new hot water heating system and \$1700 overage in drilling the new artesian well. Manager Jamie Moorby noted when the budget was drafted in summer COVID cases were declining and more normal operations were expected. She noted that the situation had changed and there were uncertainties about usage, income and expenses.

“When we created the budget we were feeling optimistic,” Moorby said, but the resurgence of COVID in the state meant it was hard to tell what usage of the center would be. “I think probably many former steady renters won’t come back,” said Moorby. However the drop in income also is accompanied by a drop in expenses associated with usage, such as heating and lighting, Moorby noted.

The main component of the budget income remains the annual \$23,750 disbursement to the center from its endowment held by the Vermont Community Foundation. Main impacts to costs outlined by Treasurer Bill Powell were \$1700 in unanticipated costs in the \$12,650 project to drill a well for the center and revamp its water system. Carolyn Morton and others thanked Powell and Moorby for their work in overseeing and guiding the project through to completion.

After reviewing some adjustments and discussion about the difficulty of predicting usage and income under the pandemic circumstances, Andrew Nemethy moved to approve the \$31,766 budget for fiscal 2022, seconded by Carolyn Morton. The budget was unanimously approved.

Other Business

Following up on discussions held over the past year, the board agreed unanimously to shift half of its endowment with the Vermont Community Foundation to invest it in so-called ESG (Environmental/Social/Governance) funds

operated by the foundation. The decision, considering the MCCC charter to build community, “seems like a no-brainer,” said Carolyn Morton. The board action instructed treasurer Powell to request the VCF divide the funds between the so-called “long-term pool” of funds and the newer ESG funding pool.

The decision was based on 3-5- and 10-year results showing little difference in the investment results for the two options, and a desire to align the MCCC investments with ESG principles that reflect the center’s goals and charter.

Flag issue

The board revisited the issue whether to allow community members to fly a flag from the center, but given a month to consider the implications there was a clear consensus that would mean “opening a can of worms” that allowed anyone to ask to fly any flag for any cause and create problems for the board.

Carolyn Morton suggested the board “not go down that road,” saying, “there are other ways to support causes.”

Board nominations

President Dirk Van Susteren was re-elected to a 2-year term as president; Andrew Nemethy was re-elected to a 2-year term as secretary; and Rick Dryfoos was elected a new member for a one-year term.

Andrew Nemethy

Recording Secretary, MCCC