

Maple Corner Community Center Annual Meeting October 13, 2022

Present: President Dirk Van Susteren, Treasurer Bill Powell, Secretary Andrew Nemethy, John Rosenblum, Rick Dryfoos, Carolyn Morton, Nancy Toulis, Steve Sweeney

The board held its annual meeting to pass a budget and publicly get feedback and discuss finances and plans for the next year, with 19 community members attending in all.

BUDGET REVIEW

Treasurer Bill Powell reported on the proposed budget, running through figures for the main income grant amount from the Vermont Community Foundation, fundraising and expenses for fiscal 2023. Powell noted due to the pandemic restrictions in 2022 and limited usage of the center, the budget was basically a “cut and paste” from the previous year.

Powell said the main cost uncertainty for 2023 would be deciding among the many potential options available to the board for replacing the existing oil heat system. The board began an extensive process to look at new heating systems in the summer after concerns arose about maintenance of the existing furnace. However Powell

noted those had been allayed after an inspection and the good condition of the furnace meant the system was good for at least another winter.

Tim Maker, a community member who volunteered his expertise to spearhead explorations for a replacement heating systems, reported that an inspection of the unit had shown it to be in excellent condition and instead of a “crisis” the situation “now seems very much under control.”

Powell added that a “Nest” thermostat had been installed so if there was a furnace issue an alert would go out via wifi about any problem.

Powell reported that the budget included a \$30,000 “pass through” of funds for the planning on replacing the Curtis Pond dam, money that had been held since being approved for a dam replacement a couple decades years ago.

Considerable discussion followed between the board and public attendees over various options and their costs, including a pellet boiler, combo heating using heat pumps together with the existing boiler, and propane boilers. Board members noted the strong preference to switch or curb the use of fossil fuels for heating.

Carolyn Morton noted that as a community facility whose usage is varied and involves days without occupancy

when heat is turned down to save energy, there is also a need to be able to heat up rapidly for users who rent the space. “It’s all quite complicated” to find the best solution, she said. John Rosenblum concurred, saying “there’s a lot of different complicated options.”

A move to approve the \$30,230.00 budget was made by Powell, seconded by Andrew Nemethy and unanimously approved by the board.

MCCC manager Nancy Toulis reported on the somewhat limited usage during the year due to continued COVID concerns and her hope that more people will start to rent the center again as the pandemic eases. A discussion ensued about promoting the center and raising awareness and bringing new people in to use it. Ideas included starting up pot lucks to welcome new folks to the community and trying to spread the word about the MCCC as a “great resource,” as Toulis put it.

Having no further business, the board adjourned.