

MCCC Jan. 29, 2024 meeting

Present: Dirk Van Susteren, Andrew Nemethy, Peter Burke, Bill Powell, John Rosenblum, Steve Sweeney, Jamie Moorby, Nancy Toulis.

BUDGET DISCUSSION and FINANCIAL MOVES

Treasure Bill Powell updated the board on the fiscal year so far and the discussed updating the accounting software and some organizational issues on how some line items are recorded.

Powell asked the board to formally authorize him to transfer funds that came in from donations from community members for a town-wide project to repair the Curtis Pond dam. The funds are pass-through monies held by the MCCC, after consulting a nonprofit attorney about the legality of the process and being told it fits in the center's purpose. The board approved as follows: The MCCC Board herein approves the donation from MCCC to the Curtis Pond Association, based on the attorney's opinion, the amount of \$140,000 to CPA for the construction of the Curtis Pond Dam.

The motion passed unanimously.

The board also "approved the donation of \$50,000, being 'additional paid-in capital,' to the Maple Corner Store for a kitchen project as proposed by the Maple Corner Store. " The monies, once again, were community donations that

were held by the center in its nonprofit role as a community building organization, for use by such entities as the neighborhood store.

Powell also updated the board on plans for a radio antenna in the back of the MCCC that will be part of the town's emergency response network. He suggested during that installation new CVFiber optical cable could be connected up at the same time.

Peter Burke noted that times have changed and the need for emergency WiFi spots, such as MCCC due to storm and flood outages is growing. Powell noted that the MCCC's new power generator has already been used five times in the past year. While some board members wondered if there is "mission creep" going on with the purpose of the community center, John Rosenblum observed that the mission of providing community is just being manifested in new ways.

Following discussion the board unanimously approved the following motion: "Resolved, the MCCC board herein approves the request of the Emergency Management Director, on behalf of the town of Calais, to allow an antenna to be installed at the town's expense, and subject to the board having sole authority to direct its removal with notice for cause."

Powell said the installation would probably take place after

snow melts in late spring.

FUNDRAISING

After a hiatus of several years, President Van Susteren brought up plans for a dinner fundraiser for the MCCC with a Chinese feast. The board discussed possible dates in March and which day of the weekend might be best. Van Susteren noted that acclaimed Chinese chef Steve Bogart from Worcester was helping to organize and prepare the menu. Steve Sweeney said once word of that gets out there should be no trouble selling out for the dinner.

MCCC RENTALS

MCCC manager Nancy Toulis sought guidance on the board's policy on what to do when there are rental usage conflicts between paying customers versus local organizations that are eligible to use the center for free.

Jamie Moorby said the center has always allowed town groups free use of the facilities for meetings, but that the MCCC can use rental revenue and "in my mind paying should be prioritized over non-paying." She added that income from paid rentals, in fact, are what enable the MCCC to be open for town non-paying users. A further discussion was about how far out the MCCC should allow rentals to be booked.

Program Committee chairperson Anna Schuenemann

reported that the MCCC has seen lots of activity and events that were well attended. She noted the “sound bath” event had 22 participants and Rick Winston was doing well attended movie nights at the center. She said her goal was to have around four events a month and to have a diverse set of offerings.

Possible future events include a workshop on giving CPR and one on ticks and Lyme disease, she said. Monthly pot lucks and a “maker group” have also brought in good crowds.