

Maple Corner Community Center Board Meeting

Jan. 18, 2023

Present: President Dirk Van Susteren, Treasurer Bill Powell, Andrew Nemethy, Carolyn Morton, Nancy Toulis, Steve Sweeney, Anna Matheson, Jamie Moorby

The board met to get updates on a proposal to designate the MCCC as an emergency shelter with the promise of funds to install an emergency generator if the plans go through. The board also held a wide-ranging discussion on how to improve engagement and attract new users to the center after several years of limited use due to COVID.

EMERGENCY SHELTER PLAN

Community member Nick Emlen reported to the board on a government grant proposal approved for Calais to designate certain buildings as Emergency Shelters. Under the proposal, an emergency generator would be installed in the proposed shelters, with a 50% match required from the locale. Emlen said the cost of the generator was \$11,308.

Emlen noted that it is possible the town of Calais may decide to provide the matching funds for the generator so the installation will not cost the MCCC any money.

Treasurer Bill Powell strongly backed the idea, since he has long advocated for the MCCC having a backup

generator for the heating system to prevent pipes from freezing and to keep the center warm when there are outages. He also spoke to the board on some related electrical issues due to two separate transformers being hooked up to the MCCC, with one designed solely for the fire safety system for the sprinklers, resulting in two electric power accounts. He proposed that the board approve \$1200 for two electric heaters to be installed in the MCCC in case of a power outage to prevent pipes from freezing, and simplifying the electrical accounts at the same time.

The board voted to authorized Powell to go ahead with the plan, and also approved the idea of the center contributing 50% of the proposed cost for a generator at the center.

PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

The Board voted to approve Anna Matheson as a new member of the board and to make her chairperson of the Program Committee. Matheson explain that she has a background in fundraising, special events and marketing and as a new resident in Calais, wants to offer her expertise “and bring some of that energy to the community.”

A key goal, she said, was to get “more robust” use of the center and its program and to engage a broader section of the community and all ages to use the facility and hold events there.

MCCC Manager Nancy Toulis strongly seconded that desire, saying she'd "really like to see some young blood" get involved and brought into the MCCC.

IN other business, the board also discussed use of the center by teens and what level of supervision was required and whether to allow teens to access the center using the code that opens the door. While wanting to encourage teens to be able to hang out, liability issues and concerns about what they are doing were discussed. No action was taken but it was proposed that a set of rules be provided for teens who use the MCCC.

The board was also notified the furnace was inspected and passed with flying colors despite its age. Jamie Moorby provided an update on fundraising for the Curtis Pond Dam replacement.