

HEART COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES: for the meeting of May 24, 2017

Committee Members Present:

Michele Giarusso, Chair
Tracy Rogers, Secretary
Joseph Arsenault
Claire Brennan
Richard Fontaine

Alan Genovese
Cheryl George
Lynn Hansell
Bob Keir
Renee Keir

Jack Killeen
Sue O'Reilly McRae
Ginger Robinson
Bill Wahlstrom

Committee Members Absent:

Lisa Armstrong , Jennifer Comiskey, Sharon Fontaine, Jennifer Glazier, Ruth Miller, Tony Matteo, Shannon Miner

Others Present:

Debbie Lynangale, facilitator

Called to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:33 p.m.

Minutes

Bob moved to approve minutes from the May 10, 2017 meeting as written. The motion was seconded by Joe and carried by a unanimous vote.

Lynn reported energy committees from several towns met with DOER. Will conduct a walkthrough of all buildings and perhaps a grant for all towns to improve energy usage.

Survey Results

Members filled out a survey asking about roles for Committee members and a focus for the Committee as a whole (survey results are attached). Debbie then shared results of the online survey issued since the May 10th meeting asking about resources within the Committee (see attached). The Committee then shared observations about commonalities seen across the surveys:

Reactions:

- Need to start with 1-2 items (get outside direction? Pull a couple out of a hat??)
- Need staff
- No clear consensus where to start
- Disparity related to mission, all over the map (may not be bad – good to have diversity, it's why we're here; might be nice to have more consensus)
- Want to take action, step up to do something
- Where can we have the most impact? Where are low-hanging fruit (and then could go on to larger issues)? What are others not doing? What could we have control over?
- Some common ground related to collaboration or communication?
- Build on shared frustration with budgets, fiscal pressure

Action ideas:

- Joint meeting with School Committee (and towns and faculty?) for input on Committee role and scope, pick our focus from input)
- Surveys to stakeholders
- Seek School Committee, School District, admin agreement for HEART Committee involvement
- Get buy-in from people with power
- Narrow to a couple topics, then invite stakeholders
- Do “workshop” meetings
- Create a worksheet with key questions to ask each person to gather input
- Do individual interviews to ask for input (potentially with questions above), compile and look for common ground (could include student, town committees, parents, all staff, School Committee, Student Council)
- Info gathering session related to a particular solution, directly getting input from people
- Meetings at town sites
- Presentations
- Seeking a wider response to the surveys conducted

Summer Meeting Schedule

Hold community meetings to determine the scope of the Committee’s work. Meet 6/14; not 6/7 or 6/21. Alan, Michele, Bill, Joe will work on questions to bring to community to bring to the 6/14 meeting.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: June 14, 6:30 p.m. at the Bernardston Senior Center, 20 Church St.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tracy Rogers". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Tracy" being more prominent than the last name "Rogers".

Tracy Rogers