

Notes from - 8/7/14 Communication Group Meeting (Envision Barrington)

Meeting held at: Horseshoes Plus, Inc., 8 Oakhill Road, Barrington, 6 – 7:30PM

Attendees:

- Jackie Cilley
- Steve Diamond
- Susan Frankel
- Dave Mincin
- Jacki Saunders

I. Discussions

1. Jacki Saunders received a nomination from Susan Frankel, seconded by Jackie Cilley and followed by a unanimous vote of all those present to Chair the Communications Committee.
2. Jacki S. met with Amy Inglis of the Barrington Library to discuss a range of matters including whether the Communications Committee might collaborate to conduct research on the information needs of the community, whether the Library has email addresses that could be used for this purpose, how the Library currently stays in contact with residents and the types of information they provide to residents.
 - Jacki reported back that she was very impressed with the current capabilities and information sharing of the Library.
 - She discovered that the Library has already hosted a survey for the Natural Resources Committee. The same may be a possibility for the Communications Committee.
 - Amy expressed an interest in working collaboratively on any channels developed by the Communications Committee to provide information to the residents of Barrington.
3. A brief discussion ensued as to the formal membership of the Communications Committee. While there are names that were provided following the formal Envision Barrington process in March, some have neither attended or responded to communications from the Committee. We will be contacting all of those currently listed in order to determine their interest and ability to participate in the Communications Committee. Additionally, the Committee agreed that we would review the skills and interests of each of our members to determine what additional competencies the Committee would benefit from and invite residents with such abilities to join the Committee.
4. Susan Frankel reported back on her discussions with the UNH Survey Center relative to possibilities for conducting research on the information desires of Barrington. Initial thoughts from the Survey Center personnel are that a universal mailed survey to every household in the community would serve our purposes best and ensure that every resident has the opportunity to participate. This would also be the lowest cost option. In order to keep costs as low as possible, Committee members would need to assist in the development of survey instrument, assume mailing logistics and costs and assist with the final write-up of the results. The Survey Center would gather the completed surveys, input the data and run the statistical analyses on this data. A 15-20% return rate is anticipated and a few thousand dollars in expenses is assumed.
5. Jackie Cilley distributed the J-Lab application completed by The Forum of Nottingham, Northwood and Deerfield. This application was submitted for a \$10,000 start-up grant for that on-line newspaper. The Communications Committee wishes to investigate the possibility of this or similar grants for the development of an on-line communications vehicle for Barrington.

6. Jackie C discussed her conversations with Brad Jett of MetroCast. MetroCast would be willing to videotape, edit and air a segment (30 minutes, possibly 60 minutes) once a month devoted to information of interest to Barrington. More discussion and consideration will be given to this possibility. In addition, Channel 25 is solely devoted to coverage of Barrington activities/events/public meetings, etc. The Committee agreed we needed more information as to who the decision-maker was relative to the use of equipment and airtime for this medium.
7. The Committee also discussed the possibility of requesting of The Forum to add a Barrington section that would be developed and maintained by volunteers in Barrington. Jackie C shared with the Committee that The Forum Board may well be open to this idea. The deciding factor may well be the number and capabilities of volunteers who step forward to handle the content of such a section. The Forum has had a very successful 10 year track record due, in large part, the dedication of their volunteer journalists who have ensured timely and desired content to the residents of the three communities the newspaper serves.

2. Other Business

None to report.

Action Items

- a. Jacki S: To contact other Envision Barrington Committees to determine whether there is a Chair or liaison to each and to inquire about the possibility of a joint meeting for information sharing purposes.
- b. Jackie C to contact Selectmen and/or John Scruton relative to video equipment and the use of Channel 25.
- c. The Committee agreed that we needed a brainstorming session devoted to the types of information we believe we need to move forward, the criticalness of each type of information, how it can be best obtained and how it will be used. A precursor to such a meeting would be to liaise with other Envision Barrington committees to determine what sources of information they have already identified as necessary to their own work.
- d. Still outstanding as Paul was unable to attend our rescheduled meeting: Paul to check into Knight Foundation to see if he can find out anything that would help with grant info.
- e. Still outstanding: Jackie will check with Conservation Commission (Marika) for list of addresses, and check her files re: survey questions about information needs.
- f. Still outstanding: Dawn to seek cable fund info from John Scruton.
- g. Ongoing Projects
 - i. (This was Liz's, we need to reassign) – Barrington website review, chamber website, search for other award winning town websites
 - ii. Jacki S – document meetings, upload meeting minutes and agendas to Barrington town for posting, site review
 - iii. Mike –review of Barrington website's broken or missing links, help Jacki with notes.

Comment [SF1]: About what?

Team

- Jackie Cilley

- Steve Diamond
- George Dorset
- Susan Frankel
- Dawn Hatch
- Mike Houst
- Paul Mausteller
- David Mincin
- Jacki Saunders

Team Mail list:

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Next Meeting

Thursday, September 4, 2014 at 6:00 PM, 8 Oakhill Road. Across from Congregational Church. This is Jacki Cilley's home. If her husband meets you at the door, just tell him you're with her Envision Barrington working group. This is a brown bag meeting, bring your own dinner.

NOTE: The next agenda should include the next meeting date, time and location. The Agenda and the Meeting minutes should be sent to "Barbara Irvine landuse@metrocast.net"; and a copy to barrplan@metrocast.net (marsha).

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