

Board Liaison Report

October 8, 2020

Town Hall:

- We have our architectural stamp and final plans for the Town Hall project. The architect has sent all needed updates to the various elements (foundation plan, etc....) with Guntlow and Associates and also Preferred Builders. Preferred Builders finished the re-draw this afternoon.
- We have what looks like a solid commitment from our building mover and excavator for an April 1 2021 start date, and to hold their price.
- Preferred Builders has offered to hold their numbers until next year if we provide a down payment. However, I am not prepared to ask for action on that yet, as I would like to come back to the next meeting with the specific numbers. My goal is to have a solid plan/path forward at the next regular meeting.

Digitization Grant:

- Mark Kirk of Cott systems came yesterday and worked with Julie and with her temp help for this purpose to digitize back five years of records. They returned a portion of their grant award to the town so that we could pay the temp help to upload. So, that training was done yesterday.
- With the listers digitization grant, they are moving along smoothly. Wendy is taking pictures of the records that are then provided to CTI for the coding updates, etc... I spoke with Wendy this morning and she anticipates having everything done by the deadline without issue (November 1).
- Reminder, the total award for digitization is over 20k

LGER Grant:

- We have been approved for our expenses for LGER, including our additional expenses that I added after the deadline was extended. As follows:
 1. Already incurred expenses of a laptop (for me) and two cell phones (one for me and one that was purchased for Linda in March). Total = \$2,304 we can send in the documentation for these purchases now, I have provided Linda with that information.
 2. "Anticipated expenses" which include a shared laptop and cell phone for the listers, a cell phone and laptop for the treasurer, a laptop and cell phone for the town clerk,

a laptop for the zoning administrator, and a video conferencing system (Zoom Room). Total = \$21,309

3. Total award for new equipment, 100 percent covered by grant = \$23,613.00

4. Just found out we can add some additional expenses as well....perhaps a few hundred dollars more. Including actual cell service for Linda, the time for IT to set up the laptops, and the cost of Zoom subscription.

- Ellen has created an account/line from which the purchases can be made and then tracked for reimbursement.
- **Action requested:** Please approve the purchases of the additional laptops, cell phones, and video conferencing equipment. As soon as purchased we will submit for the reimbursement.

Historical Preservation Grant:

- The Historical Preservation Grant application was sent in on Monday. That is an ask of \$16,300.00 towards replacement of the roof and exterior siding repair and paint. Total project cost is \$32,600.00, the Town is responsible for 50 percent.
- We are going to fundraise for this work with the Church. They have a Harvest Fair planned for October 25th. As soon as they have some literature for sharing that will be put on website and also on the facebook group. You already approved using some of the town picnic money towards supporting this, so the Church and I can decide how that is best spent.
- The Pownal Regulators have volunteered to help with the Harvest Fair.

Facebook Group:

- I have figured out how to facebook live, so I will be trying to livestream all meetings when I can, just for additional assurance that our meetings are available, accessible, and recorded.

Planning Commission:

- The Planning Commission has completed their draft of the by-laws, and the next step is scheduling a public hearing for public review and comment. A copy of the draft by-laws are posted on the website. We are aiming for a public hearing likely in December or even early January. Neighboring towns require a 30-day warning of the hearing so we want to be sure everything is warned properly.

Parks and Rec:

- The Pownal Parks and Rec group met on Monday, and we organized. I am the Chair, Jennifer Boucher is Vice Chair, and Peter Hopkins is Secretary. We will be warning all meetings and posting minutes as other boards. As we are a working group with no decision making power or capabilities in that regard, I believe we can have discussion on public record email without question of “quorum”, but I am going to check with VLCT on that.
- We toured the Bible Conference Land and discussed possibilities. Ray and Jennifer are reaching out to BATS to see about possibility of pump track. We know that there is hunting that happens up there, so a suggestion we have is to close anything we do up there from October 1 to December 15.
- As a group to set some priorities. We decided that a quicker and more attainable priority while we are also working on the Bible Conference Land is to focus on a small temporary project at the Town Park/tennis court. Peter Hopkins had the idea that we could apply for a small Spark grant for the creation of a temporary skating rink on the tennis court this winter. Jennifer and Peter are looking into the logistics of building the rink, and how other towns do it. I am going to reach out to some entities to see if they might donate space to store the rink materials in the non-winter months. We are also going to seek donations of materials: for the creation of the rink itself, building a couple fire pits, benches, and perhaps a porta-potty.
- I reached out to VLCT to ask about liability for things like skate parks and ice-skating rinks on property already designated as “Town Park”. They did not think this would add their risk accessor is meeting me at the town park on Monday morning to look at the site and help me think through all the possible considerations regarding insurance and liability, etc... So, I will have more to report at the next regular meeting. But, the hopeful news is that the current consensus is we are already covered for any potential recreation uses at the Town Park site. I will also ask him to look at the Bible Conference Land as potential “park” use.
- I would like to ask that the Selectboard considers us in the budgeting for the next fiscal year, and might consider giving us a small expense line.

Catherine Bryars BCRC conversation:

- Catherine contacted me wanting to speak about trailer parks in Pownal, and the potential of getting large grant programs to help those particularly in flood zones. I told

her a bit about the history of the conversation regarding trailers in Pownal, and had some suggestions for her. I suggested to her that she should not have her first conversation with people with opinions about trailers, but with people who actually live in these areas. I suggested that instead of treating these communities as things to be “dealt with” that instead she reach out and find representatives from these communities willing to speak about what THEY perceive their needs to be. I also really cautioned her to not see this as charity or “helping the vulnerable” but rather finding opportunities to empower people within their own communities, and to attempt to help meet their needs on their own terms. I told her that I would put my feelers out to see if there was anyone in any of the trailer parks who would be willing to speak with her and let her know their thoughts and ideas. So, I would like to ask the community that if there is anyone who lives in one of these parks, especially those in the flood zones that she would set up a meeting with them. I want to re-iterate that this is NOT for people who are not directly related to these communities.