

DRAFT minutes

Nov. 13, 2012 Meeting

8-9 a.m. Greenfield Savings Bank, Turners Falls branch

1. Introductions (5 minutes)

Attendees:

Stephan Smith, Rist Insurance, and meeting chair

Glen Nichols, Nichols Vision

Jerad Libby, Brick House

Erin MacLean, Loot

Linda Ackerman, Greenfield Savings Bank

Dena Briggs, Center for EcoTechnology

Holly Givens, freelance writer and Montague Business Association administrative coordinator

Eileen Dowd, Carriage House Designs

Kara McLaughlin, Gill-Montague Community School Partnership

Mik Muller, Montague WebWorks

2. Association updates (5 minutes Holly)

- a. We need a volunteer for the tree lighting. The date would coincide with the Wonderful Night in Turners Falls.

Tasks include: Securing permission from the Select Board to use the park in this way (Holly is taking care of this); Finding a tree; make sure there are lights and decorations for the tree lighting; making sure the electric is on for the lighting; taking down the tree after the holidays

Linda/Greenfield Savings Bank has a stand, lights and some ornaments that could be used

Other ideas: Use a tree in the park outside bandshell

People from the community could bring decorations to add to the tree

Cookies and warm beverages

Mik Muller offered to do a warming pit.

- b. Group ads—get in on this! Materials for the ad to promote Wonderful Night are due Nov. 19, although this date may change, depending on the date of Wonderful Night in Turners Falls

- c. Financial update—approximately \$4000 in the bank, with anticipated expense of about \$450 in the next month.

3. It's a Wonderful Night in Turners Falls update (5 minutes Erin MacLean)

Nina Rossi of Nina's Nook and Erin MacLean of Loot are working on this event.

Date: Thursday Dec. 13, probably

Potential plans include showing It's a Wonderful Night, with an option to have a food drive component

Shea Theater is open to showing the movie; details are being finalized;

Loot would underwrite the movie so it would be free to the public

There will be a pop-up holiday store from RiverCulture in the Hallmark Gallery

Other activities include a tree lighting in Peskeompskut Park and caroling, perhaps a visit from Santa

Erin is encouraging businesses to tie-in with the movie, for example having a hot chocolate drink named after Zuzu, etc.

4. Grant program subcommittee update (5 minutes Lynne?)
 - a. Discussion tabled

5. Gill-Montague School Community Partnership updates (10 minutes Kara McLaughlin)
 - a. DialSelf—executive director David Vogel—brought together youth serving groups to look at what young people need to in the community for positive youth development—strategy to ensure all youth have opportunities to become healthy responsible productive and vibrant community members
 - b. Nec. Components—one aspect is business owners—what do they need in order to support young people
 - c. Effort is community wide—everyone has a stake in having healthy youth in community; pilot project
 - d. Montague already has a lot in place—brick house/parks; police dept. is approached to endorse and go through training;
 - e. Specific business development piecemeal positive youth development community certification—looking for input on benchmarks
 - f. Three Americorps members on this project—springfield college will evaluate; and do legwork; time to do grantwriting; creating training videos; could be webinar training
 - g. Will be looking at the course of it over a year (see handouts)
 - h. Working toward recognizing the town as a youth development community
 - i. Looking for feedback; questions for larger group

6. Meet your CET Green Business Energy Efficiency Specialist (10 minutes, Dena Briggs) Berkshire Gas Company offers commercial property owners and renters incentive money towards the installation of energy efficiency improvement

projects such as heating and hot water systems, water saving faucet aerators, insulation and air sealing, interior storm windows, and more. Commercial customers pay into an “energy efficiency program” charge via a cost line-item every month on their natural gas bill. This collection of money is then redistributed to Berkshire Gas customers in the form of no-cost energy assessments and incentives for making recommended improvements, all coordinated by the Center for EcoTechnology (CET). (Alternatively, contact CET’s Jenn Cranshaw Parsons to learn more about what energy efficiency programs would be most appropriate for your business: (413) 727-3142 or jenn.parsons@cetonline.org.)

Center for Ecotechnology—All energy-saving programs there have an economic component. They promote doing things that save you money; or offer a good payback on your investment. Currently, there are opportunities for commercial and industrial gas users; some immediate things for business, such as direct installs or weatherization. An energy expert comes through and makes energy saving-recommendations for your business. The review takes about an hour, and is free. The gas company gets a rebate based on reduction of use of therms, and so offers some incentives for businesses to save energy. Center for Ecotechnology helps with paperwork, makes recommendations and offers details about what qualifies for incentives. Some examples of energy saving projects for businesses: Sealing leaks; improving insulation; installing programable thermostats; boilers, or ovens.

7. January meeting time January 8; Greenfield Savings Bank; Turners Falls; most 8 a.m.
8. Member Announcements (10 minutes)

Mitten tree at Greenfield Savings Bank—bring a pair of mittens
Livable communities meeting—Chris Couture will represent MBA

Adjourn and mingle (10 minutes)