

WHEELOCK COMMUNITY INITIATIVE
DRAFT MEETING NOTES
Thursday, November 10, 2022, 3-4pm
In Person, Town Hall

Present: Tanya Brewer, Enid Ellis, Ann Lawless, Hèlène Millas, Carolyn Nolan, Linda Rhodes, Eileen Boland

Agenda: No additional items or changes

Minutes of October 13 Meeting: Approval was moved by Helene, seconded by Enid and voted unanimously.

Welcome Baskets - Enid reported she delivered a basket to new residents Guy and Maxine Favreau on Peak Road, who were very appreciative. The basket included a copy of "Wheelock News" and the WCI new resident survey (with a stamped self-addressed envelope to ensure a return). Enid has secured 4 more gift certificates each from Green Mt. Books and House of Pizza for future baskets. Linda noted that Wheelock residents are entitled to a free pass at the Fairbanks Museum (a pamphlet can be added to the basket).

Sheffield Food Pantry and the Fall Food Drive: Helene shared that the drive was generously supported by Wheelock residents; cash contributions totaled \$900. Delivery of food boxes and children's books for the Little Library went smoothly. Eileen reported seeing Sara Camber (pantry manager) during her campaign and Sara was enthusiastic about Wheelock's continued support.

Holiday Food Drive Plans: Promotion will start after Thanksgiving, either the Friday after or the following Monday. Ann designed and distributed very attractive posters. Enid and Tanya volunteered to distribute posters in Lyndonville and Wheelock; Linda Sheffield, Glover and Barton. Posters will be edited to emphasize "new" toys and books. Linda said she would review book donations and pull any used books for donation to other places. Tanya shared that a gentleman from Greensboro made a food donation to the fall drive outside the hours Town Hall was open. She volunteered to continue to be a drop-off site outside these hours if needed. The collection and transport dates remain the same.

Wheelock Collection dates: Tues. through Thurs., November 29, 30 and December 1, 6, 7, 8 (ending at noon).
All dates during Town Clerk office hours.

Drop Off to Sheffield Town Hall: Afternoon of December 8. (Confirmed with Sara, she will be flexible)

Financials: After consulting with our town clerk, Vanessa Seguin, the account balance was confirmed to be \$819.48. (The WCI May tag sale took in \$179.) The WCI annual website expense (\$182 +\$20 for the domain name) sparked discussion about the value of having a website when the website "traffic" is low. Eileen asked about adding the materials Carolyn shared to the website, i.e., the Community Club documents and historical clippings. The website might serve as a repository for historical items and could also include a form for someone to request information or leave comments. She also suggested that we engage a "young person" (technically savvy, young volunteer) who might help us reorganize the website. Eileen will create a Mail Chimp account to make it easier to distribute news, announcements, and the newsletter.

Agreed: We will all review the website for the next meeting and come with ideas for updating, reorganizing, or making other changes so it is more relevant for the WCI community-building efforts.

Project Ideas:

Little Library: Ann shared a proposal Vanessa Seguin drafted that outlined a collaboration among Miller's Run School (the students), The Friends of Miller's Run/PTO, and WCI for a "Little Free Library". The goal is to install one (or two, one for children and one for adults) at the Wheelock Town Hall (site to be determined) with a small ceremony

marking the occasion. The proposal includes an option that includes library kits and funding options, as well as an alternate option of community volunteers using donated materials. The discussion moved to a bigger vision for a park/playground area (with wood chip, low/no maintenance bedding) near the site of the existing concrete slab (could support picnic tables). Ann noted that there are grant funds available for such a project and that a pavilion/gazebo has been suggested for the site in the past. Playgrounds in Burke and Greensboro Bend were cited as models. (Town liability issues will need to be researched.)

Agreed: Tanya was interested in the community/volunteer option and suggested using cedar for the construction (it lasts better in an outdoor location) and offered that her husband Bradley would write a proposal for the Selectboard to consider on their Dec. 6 agenda. Eileen agreed to send Tanya an outline of the Town Hall grounds (attached to these minutes) for siting the location. Plowing needs and traffic flow will be among things to be considered before siting a spot for the library.

Town Heroes: Eileen shared that she had no opportunity to review the pdf copies of Carolyn's Community Club materials and other documents. The November newsletter has topics already set, but future editions can certainly include "town heroes" in the history column. Eileen noted that she belongs to a Facebook "Wheelock's History" group that includes Patti Baker, but was not aware of an active historical society in the town.

Free Exchange: Due to the late hour, it was not discussed.

4:35 PM Adjourn: Carolyn moved to adjourn, unanimously approved.

P.S. Many thanks to Linda for sharing the yummy pumpkin roll!

Next Meeting: Thursday, December 8, 3:00 pm, in person, upstairs Town Hall.

Holiday Food Drive transfer to Sheffield is the same day, but will be completed in ample time before the WCI meeting.

Respectfully submitted, Eileen Boland