

WHEELOCK COMMUNITY INITIATIVE

DRAFT MEETING NOTES

Thursday, December 8, 2022, 3-4pm In Person, Town Hall

Present: Enid Ellis, Ann Lawless, Hèlène Millas, Linda Rhodes

Ann read a thank you note received from the Sheffield Food Pantry for the WCI Thanksgiving food drive. They reported \$1,925 in monetary donations plus food for which they are very grateful.

Minutes of November 10, 2022 Meeting: Approval was moved by Helene, seconded by Linda and voted unanimously.

Agenda: No changes or additional items.

Ann mentioned that she received a resignation email from Steve Amos. He would be willing to help WCI occasionally, but will no longer be joining us on a regular basis. Ann thanked him for his years of service to WCI.

Welcome Baskets: Enid reported no new fulltime residents have moved into town in the past month. She shared the questionnaire which the Favreaus returned after they received their basket. They replied with very favorable comments.

Holiday Food Drive: , Hèlène and Enid delivered food, toys and books to the Sheffield Food Pantry. Sara Camber was very grateful. Enid relayed Sara's statement that it is now more expensive than ever to purchase food for the pantry. Enid suggested a regular donation food drop off for the pantry. Sara will consider it for the new year and will let WCI know.

Other Projects:

Little Library: The meeting which Vanessa was supposed to attend with the Friends of Millers Run was cancelled. However, Tanya Brewer (via an email sent to Eileen Boland) stated that the little library which Bradley is working on will be completed by January. Perhaps the Brewers could get in touch with Mr. Ham at Millers Run to determine how the children could participate in its finishing or work on a second one. Possibly there could be a kit which simply needs to be assembled and painted. It was suggested that Bradley and Mr. Ham could meet and devise the project.

Town Heroes and Free Exchange: Tabled until next meeting

Website Review and Next Steps: All present agreed with Ann's and Eileen's comments.

It was felt that there could be more traffic to the website if there was a direct link to the website in the emails which Eileen sends. Therefore, a different way to send the emails is needed. Mailchimp was one suggestion. Since Eileen has used it previously she should follow up on this and determine the cost of getting the software/service needed.

A purpose for the website is needed and its purpose must be kept in mind. Suggested purposes: build a sense of community, attract more people to town, get more town involvement from its citizens.

Ann suggested that **accomplishments of Wheelock students** should be on the website, but that it is a slow process to do that. There are permissions which need to be received and text written among other issues. Student information does draw website traffic.

Ann also suggested **information on some of the town's older citizens** could be highlighted as there is much knowledge which they possess.

Information on Wheelock businesses should also be on the website. After much discussion about "partner" vs. "local business" it was decided that there should be a "local businesses" tab instead of "partner" tab on the website. Service provider vs. product provider was also discussed. WCI does not want to be seen as recommending any service provider. (Note – this nuance could be eliminated if the listing is considered a *directory*???) Linda suggested devising a blank form for businesses to complete with their basic information, photo and website which WCI could list on the businesses tab.

The tasks for the above could be broken into separate ones for the WCI members to tackle.

The **photo gallery** does nothing for the website and could be eliminated. Pictures of WCI events could be placed on the "events" tab.

Narrative and Financial Report: None available yet.

The next meeting will be January 12, 2023 at 3:00 PM at the Town Hall.

4:09 to adjourn: Helene moved to adjourn, Linda seconded, voted unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Enid Ellis