

Westport Village Society
Board Meeting Minutes – January 28, 2015

Call to order: President Thad Van Bueren called us to order at 5pm. There were no additions to the Agenda.

Directors present: Thad Van Bueren, Gary Quinton, Bill Knapp, Dorine Real, Steve Brigham, Nita Regalia

Guests: Sarah Mathias, Lee Tepper, Robert (Bob) Fanell, Baile Oakes, Millie Saunders, Steve Cardullo

Public Input: Sarah wishes to thank Westport Village Society for two mini-grants used to produce events for children.

Administrative Items: Gary moved we accept the minutes of October 22, 2014. Bill seconded. All ayes. Bill reported on the **rosy** state of our finances. We have had substantive donation income and have awarded three mini-grants (one for the Community Center sign and two for Sarah's events. Gary asked how are mini-grants awarded. Bill said we have awarded them at our meetings but can use email for immediate action. We decided to add mini-grants to the agenda. Gary moved we accept the financial report. Steve seconded. All ayes. Bill reported there was no correspondence to speak of and none requiring Board action.

Active Business:

Natural playground proposal/CCC update. Sarah described the concept of a natural playscape and passed around some pictures where logs, rounds, boulders, and hills provided recreational opportunities for youngsters. She suggested the SW end of the Headlands footbridge where a bit of hardscape could make such a play area adjacent to the vernal creek. Sarah acknowledged we would have to respect the creek and teach responsibility to the youthful participants. She asked Steve Brigham, a consummate horticulturalist, and Thad, one of the authors of the Headlands Management Plan (HMP) what they thought. Thad said the Headlands plan was compatible with public use which Sarah's plan is. Steve agreed. Gary chimed in observing a natural playscape has minimal impact. Millie voiced some concerns about dashing dogs. Nita worries we might compromise the Headlands with the playscape. (At this juncture the wisdom of the placement of the Toby memorial sculpture surfaced. More on that next.) Following more playscape discussion **Dorine moved we send the playscape proposal to the Community Center Committee (CCC).** Sarah asked to present to them. **Nita seconded. Two ayes. Four nays. Motion fails. Gary moved we let Sarah move forward with Steve's council and cut the blackberrys at the playscape site. Bill seconded. Three ayes. Three nays. Motion fails.**

Headlands Visioning Process: Steve suggested those concerned meet on the 3rd Saturday of the month, at 11am, for a Headlands visioning, especially of Sarahs proposal. Thad said, we need to involve the CCC. **Steve moved we budget \$500 annually for Headlands maintenance. Gary seconded. All ayes.**

Sculpture installation update: Earlier in the meeting there was some pushback on the Toby memorial sculpture/bench. Baile and Millie want to rethink the decision. Bill apologized to those who missed the vote on the sculpture. He described the installation process and indicated it would probably be installed in April.

Planning for Ducky Fundraiser: Lois indicated all ducks are in a row. Steve Cardullo is arranging for a BBQ. Thad and Lois will lead.

Goal setting 2015: Bob suggested better communications especially when it encourages younger members of the Community to get involved and join. Dorine feels we should revisit the HMP which at its inception was characterized as a *living document*. Steve Brigham would like to see improved communication between all local organizations e.g. Westport Volunteer Fire Department, Westport County Water District, Westport Community Church, and, Westport Village Society. Dorine summarized: better communication, get the younger set involved, and Headlands visioning.

We adjourned at 7:35.

Next meeting: Saturday, April 18nd, 9am, @ the Westport Church