

## Meeting #3 Minutes May 24, 2018

Call to Order 6pm

Attendance: Mike Roberts, Francine Bowman, Antonio Houde, Dianne Rappa, Tom Eighmy, Zack Smith

Updates from last meeting:

The grant: Dianne and Francine were unable to complete by the deadline. This was a grant up to 30,000. We will be able to apply for other grants using the information we have gathered so far. A great deal of documentation was needed for the grant paperwork. Mt. Lakes could not be the applicant to receive funds from the grant, according to the USDA. The town of Haverhill (Jo Lacalaide) said Haverhill could be the "pass through" entity as the applicant. (10 days before the due date) At this point we could not hand it in on time. Haverhill is willing to be involved in further grants but we could not make this grant happen at this time. This particular grant will have to wait until next year. This does not prohibit us from applying for other grants throughout the year with the town of Haverhill as the applicant.

Zach- Is this grant just for startups? Yes

Installation of equipment? Yes

Dianne: We had enough in-kind services promised to us that we could submit with the application which counted as money on our end of gathering funds for the project.

Dianne: Can we accept funds to go towards this project? Mike: We can accept pledges such as people promising money for the project.

Can we accept personal donations or go-fund me? Mike will find out and get back to the committee.

Mike prefers to keep it at the pledge level until we progress and get phase 1 details accepted.

James Roy gave Francine a verbal estimate of 98,000 for everything, to get the complete rope tow up and running as a "turn key" operation. We are waiting for the written quote from James. Once we have his breakdown of costs, we will start to chunk down the sections we can do ourselves, such as get lumber donated for top and bottom structures, and a carpenter to donate his building services.

We will be asking for other materials from other sources to lower the costs with volunteer labor and donates materials. Zach will contact Coventry Log Homes for building materials.

Dianne is working on the budget for in-kind services.

James Roy also installed the Mt. Eustis tow. His quote includes engineering services from Ross Stevens, who is on the Tram Board.

Dianne: The stream/ river that is near to the old rope has moved /shifted over in the past 30 years so we need to shift the poles and ropes away from the existing water.

Ross Stevens is the engineer who would advise us on the proper place to install the rope.

**Brad Farr is able to get telephone poles donated at no cost to us, from Consolidated Communications!!! Thank you Brad!!**

**Tree removal services (via Brad Farr) Tommy Harris is a local tree removal person who has offered to cut the trees for no cost.** He needs trees good enough for his use. Tree removal is free but that will only bring it down to the stumps. We have a quote for stump removal (via Brad Farr) from Joe Boutin for \$6200. Complete stumping and removal.

Randy Berenson (City Pump & Motor Service, Inc.) has generously offered to restore the existing motor at the top of the hill.

We would need a way to get it down to Massachusetts. This "may" take a large amount of money off our equipment cost if the existing motor is repairable.

Discussion of establishing sub committees: Phase 1 completion, Safety, Advertising, Fundraising

Talked about the phase 1 requirements and what needs to be done: Phase 1 is listed in the agenda for this 3rd meeting.

We can accept donations now. Mike prefers pledges at this point.

The plan to take on the rope tow on our own was not accepted at the commissioners meeting by Bob Long. We need to contact a commercial business to find out if there is interest. Mike agreed to sign up for this task.

We needed to have a list of 5 business saying that the installation of this project would increase their business. Francine has spoken to local business owners who have agreed and will submit a letter on our behalf.

We need to have a business plan in order to show people and local businesses. Mike advised that Phase 1 will count as our business plan.

Dianne's budget which includes salaries, in-kind services, volunteers, etc.

Ascutney VT. has a 3 year old business plan that we can use as a model.

Dave Harkless (Mt. Eustis) said they did not have a business plan, however he has some equipment to donate.

Zach has talked to Jay Waterhouse from Connecticut Valley Snowmobile Club to possibly help groom the hill during snow/rope tow seasons.

There are trails that access the hill and Jay could walk the hill with the committee to talk about the possibility of members helping out with the grooming if necessary. Discussion followed that grooming is something to figure out at a later date, once the rope tow is established.

The abutting properties may be privately owned and we would need maps to represent ownership etc.

Tom Eighmy spoke about many years ago when motorized vehicles were banned from Mt. Lakes District, to protect the waters and the land. To reintroduce snow mobiles to be allowed near the Lodge could be against the wishes of many residents and not in the best interest of the district.

We need to find the fine line between looking forward too much and having a detailed startup plan.

Coventry Log Homes will be contacted by Zack to see if they would donate shed materials.

Tom Blackney is a carpenter who has offered to build the top and or bottom sheds.

Adjournment 7:45

### **Action Items:**

**May 24, 2018**

Mike Roberts- Contact an outside source to set up and operate a Rope Tow at the Lodge  
Francine Bowman- 1)Meet with Dave Harkless (Mt. Eustis) for a tour of his rope tow and to see free equipment Dave is offering to us. 2) Meet with James Roy for written quote for complete Rope Tow Quote.

Dianne Rappa- Work on Phase 1 with Francine Bowman

Zach Smith- Contact Coventry Log Homes to ask about donation building materials.



