

Community Engagement Committee

Minutes

September 17, 2020

6:30pm

Zoom Remote

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TOWN CLERK BOURNE

Present: Tony Schiavi, Lorna Ciavola, Kathy Alfano, Renee Gratis, Jim Potter

Absent: Pam Chmielinski, Rhonda Jones Tobey

Call to Order at 6:34pm by Kathy

Review and potential approval of Historic Society Daffodil Days Application: Kathy was still not able to get anything from Diane Flynn so this will not be discussed tonight.

Review and potential approval of Historic Society Scarecrow event application: Amended application for the Daffodil Days request was received. Kathy said that the \$1,600 the committee was worried about was for in-kind donation. It is the time the volunteers put into the event, marketing, etc. Renee asked if for the purpose to this application whether or not showing in-kind services would be required? Tony agreed with Renee that it is probably not required and might skew the numbers and instead of showing a negative as it does not, it would be a profit. Lorna also agreed that showing the in-kind puts them into a loss, when there really isn't one. Tony commented that if you wanted to show in-kind, you would show it on both sides (income and expenses) and it would cancel itself out. Renee suggested in the future we let applicants know they don't need to show in-kind services at all for the application. Jim said this brings up an interesting point in that no organization should make a profit, but that these grants are for organizations that don't have extra money for something they are trying to do, such as marketing. We want to show that if we kick in money the organization could have a bigger or better event. Jim used a raffle for example where the money raised goes to the organization and that wouldn't be a good grant to approve, but if they could hire an extra band or something to make the event bigger that would be appropriate.

Tony suggested maybe instead of making a profit, they could use the money to buy more bulbs. Renee discussed the percentage of the profit and perhaps that needs to be considered for this request and moving forward. Kathy asked the question about should the committee consider granting \$1,000 instead. Renee tried commenting but started losing connection. Lorna agreed with Kathy about considering \$1,000. Brief discussion of the friends of the library also doing a similar event, but selling bulbs instead and Kathy said it was going well and perhaps there can be coordination next year.

Committee had a slight delay waiting to see if Renee could reestablish a better connection. Kathy asked for a motion for 1,000 grant – motioned by Lorna and Jim second for discussion. Renee chatted and said we shouldn't approve at a lower amount without talking to the applicant first. Tony asked Renee to type what we would actually ask them. Kathy mentioned that Gioia Dimock knew about the meeting. Renee feels that if we approve for \$1,000 that they will just come back for the other \$1,000.

Tony asked if there was some way to do a contingent vote and what that motion would look like. Kathy tried to text Gioia to see if she could get her on the meeting.

Renee called in – said her feeling is we should not approve an application without the applicant being present so we don't run into this issue again. They need to be able to justify their request if we are looking to grant less than 'the ask'.

Gioia Dimock was finally able to join the meeting. She had been listening the whole time and doesn't understand how the committee feels there is a profit on the event. Tony said it was because of the inclusion of the in-kind donation on the expense side. Tony explained what in-kind means.

Jim asked if the in-kind services we truly a donation or not. Jim said this is a good event and a lot of merit and we were confused with how the income and expenses were shown.

Jim asked Gioia that if the Committee didn't provide any money, what about the event would have to be trimmed back or cut out entirely? Gioia said she wasn't sure given that they have already ordered the bulbs. Jim followed with 'would it be like advertising?' Or something they haven't spent money on it yet. There are other expenses like augers for drills and fertilizer – all they have done so far is order the bulbs.

Kathy mentioned they would need to spend money to do advertising etc. in the spring and Gioia said there are always the unanticipated things that might come up, but this is the first event like this. Jim asked if there was thought about selling the bulbs and she has thought about it and wasn't aware the library was doing that and will have to see what happens. Gioia re-emphasized this first year is planting just at Aptuxet. Jim would like to see it expand where it engages the entire town. It could be a driving event where people could travel to different parts of town to see the Daffodils.

Kathy asked how many bulbs \$2,000 buys and Gioia responded with 5,000 bulbs. Lorna asked if the bulbs would also be along Shore Rd. And Gioia said yes, there would be some there. Tony said we need to address the motion and the second that was on the table as the discussion started to get outside of that. Tony said we ought to consider what the right amount is, whether it is the \$2,000 that was asked for or the \$1,000 in the motion.

Renee said the committee hasn't had a lot of requests so far and we need to avoid setting a precedent. The emphasis should be on the numbers. Renee asked if the money we award for

this event would be going toward the bulbs (which were already purchased)? Gioia said that is correct. In this case Renee doesn't agree with the current motion and said just in this case since the bulbs were already purchased that she would support the request for the \$2,000 and would vote against the current motion. Jim said he would withdraw his second on the original motion and Lorna responded that she would withdraw her motion.

Jim made a motion to approve \$2,000 to the Bourne Historical Society for the Daffodil Days Festival grant application – Lorna second. Tony yes, Jim yes Lorna yes Renee yes and Kathy yes. 5-0-0.

Tony said that Renee had a good suggestion and as we get more comfortable it might be a good idea to have a 2 person sub-committee to provide a little bit of guidance to help the applicant on obvious things that might cause confusion.

Renee felt it was a problem that they had already ordered the bulbs before the committee acted on the request. Tony mentioned that it is not that much different for when the Town asked Town Meeting for money, which could be offset by grants, etc. but asked Town Meeting for the whole amount. It's really a risk that the applicant bears if they do something like this and spend money before the grant is acted on by the committee.

Jim explained in section 4 on how the grant works and there are times that they will spend their own money and not get the grant until the end and after the applicant provides the receipts.

Tony Motion to adjourn – 5-0-0 Tony-yes, Renee-yes, Lorna-yes, Jim-yes, Kathy-yes

New Business

Adjourned.