

**BORDERLANDS
VILLAGE INNOVATION
PILOT TEAM MEETING**

**Killingly Public Library, Community Room
Westcott Road
March 31, 2009, 7:00 PM**

Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Ed Eramian, Donna Bronwell, Virge Lorents, John Lambert, Herbert Richardson, and Darlene Stubbe

Staff Present: Sue Westa, Elsie Bisset and Linda Walden. Kevin Essington from TNC was also present.

Janice Thurlow and Dale Desmarais were absent with notification.

Sue Westa opened the meeting at 7:09 PM and Ed Eramian became Acting Chair

Regional Event

Elsie Bisset and Kevin Essington congratulated the Regional event presenters and Elsie Bisset gave them paperweights as a memento. Kevin Essington and Sue Westa summarized the regional event for those who could not attend. They would allow more discussion time at future events.

Upon a motion by Virge Lorents, seconded by Donna Bronwell, the March 31 minutes were unanimously approved.

Returning to the Regional event, Ed Eramian said there is a need to engage the 25-34 year old group (Phase 2). Darlene Stubbe asked if the Lions Club here tended to have younger members that we could engage them? Not necessarily in Killingly but the suggestion of luncheon presentations to groups resulted. Virge Lorents congratulated Sue Westa on the large turn-pout. Elsie Bisset said the Norwich Bulletin coverage could have been better and Donna Bronwell said the Villager staff and other publications' staff is shrinking. Ed Eramian said there will be a Reminder article next week. Linda Walden said she received excellent feedback on the Killingly presentation from many sources. On April 30 at the Brooklyn Extension Center, Virge Lorents, Donna Bronwell, and Ed Eramian with Sue Westa will give the presentation to the Windham Cty. Conservation Consortium. Sue Westa is presenting to the QVCC Learning and Retirement Senior Center on May 12 at 10:30AM.

Elsie Bisset suggested getting the Exeter and Killingly Pilot teams together. Everyone agreed and a fall get together will be planned at a future date.

Strategizing Exercise

The team then reviewed last month's Strategizing Exercise. Elsie Bisset suggested another format for the summary. Others agreed and Sue Westa will set up a more graphic summary format. Linda Walden commented on the conservation design element and that the town can use technical assistance because the current regulations are not working as the P&Z Commission envisioned. Discussion followed on the technical aspects of impediments to true conservation

design due to state septic and well requirements and the DEP versus the Public Health department. Virge Lorents suggested getting Don Williams involved in the issue. Donna Bronwell asked if that was a good use of Borderlands resources. Virge Lorents said it is a good idea to educate the public that political action is required for change. Kevin Essington agreed that it takes a squeaky wheel to get change at the state level and we can help. Sue Westa discussed alternative waste water systems allowed by every other NE state except Connecticut. (Vermont conference)

Work Plan

Sue Westa reviewed the work plan that followed discussions with Linda Walden. Approximately \$12,000 is available. Sue Westa will be working on an EPA grant application. She said the grant is very competitive nation wide. It is for technical assistance for the EPA Smart Growth Implementation Program. There are 10 criteria we seem to meet. Elsie Bisset will assist in getting the required letters of support. Build out graphics from the Flinker report will be included. Ariana McBride said it is important to expand on the public participation in Phase II with seniors and youth especially. Kevin Essington agreed and said younger children are a good group as their parents are also reached. Grandparents' day was suggested. Kevin Essington said there should be a speaker bureau to approach groups and a high school presentation should be planned now for the fall. Sue Westa asked for volunteers. Donna Bronwell said she spoke to Brad Thompson in the fall about ideas and he said this group needs to be clear on what this group (Borderlands) wants the schools to do with the presentation. Kevin Essington recommended an elementary school civic lesson –take an existing curriculum and incorporate it. Darlene Stubbe suggested a HS senior assembly - what they see/like/want in the community now – what would they want if they came back after being away for a while. Kevin Essington said Orton can be used as a source. Darlene Stubbe said to include the tech school and kids; Sue Westa suggested the Middle college at QVCC. Tie it into community service. Kevin Essington said approach the superintendent now to incorporate it into the elementary, middle and HS for fall.

Linda Walden said Lynn Laberge called her and said the Historical Society may be interested in assisting with documenting mill employee memories/stories and she has contact with several families that have been in town since the mid 1800's. Virge Lorents said to track down the Haven podcast tapes. Sue Westa and Kevin Essington will follow up on that.

Virge Lorents suggested there should be Borderlands synergy with the fall Walktober events. The Killingly Conservation Commission (KCC) will host a new river trail event and this can tie into the public access to water Borderland's goal. Sue Westa and Kevin Essington will talk to Ariana McBride about public participation. Ed Eramian explained water access progress and the upcoming Source to Sea events. There will be put in and take out points in Danielson in the next few weeks. They need a spot near 101 to put in on the Five Mile-let him or Donna Bronwell know of any suggestions. The May 9 event will begin at Rt 44 to Warsaw Pond. Then the group will reassemble near 101 and go down river. Ed Eramian mentioned that Mansfield received a Healthy Eating/Living grant and got kayaks, preservers, etc. Maybe Killingly can try for that or similar grants. There seemed to be consensus.

Orton will assist with public outreach – key padding which would be good for the schools.

Ed Eramian asked if we as a group ever looked at the 2nd workshop map outcome? No - they went to Dodson. Perhaps we can review them at the April meeting. Kevin Essington said to bring the Dodson report also.

Donna Bronwell said the KCC is working on an overlay district for the East Killingly water area – perhaps Borderlands can assist. Sue Westa said she can provide more technical assistance after the EPA grant is submitted.

Sue Westa will not be at the April 23 meeting – she will be at a conference. Donna Bronwell and John Larkin also cannot attend but it was agreed to stay with April 23 as the next meeting. Topics include school update, Urban Land Institute, and the Podcast tapes. Sue Westa will contact members about the meeting and confirm the library.

- **NEXT MEETING:** The next meeting is **Thursday, April 23, 2009 at the library at 7 PM.**

Adjournment - At 9:05 PM upon a motion by Virge Lorents, seconded by John Lambert - unanimous

Respectfully submitted:

Linda Walden
Recording Clerk

DRAFT