



**BORDERLANDS
VILLAGE INNOVATION
PILOT TEAM MEETING**

**KILLINGLY TOWN HALL
JANUARY 23, 2008, 7 PM**

Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Janice Thurlow Co-Chair & Dale Desmarais Co-Chair, Jon Weaver, Peggy Weaver, Bruce Weaver, Richard Evans, Holly Shaw, Ed Eramian, Virge Lorents, Rosemarie Lee, Ralph Chartier, Eldon Griffiths, Michael Green, Carol Auer, Craig Goff, Donna Bronwell, Ryan Oppert, Brenda Duchesneau, Anthony Simpson

Staff: Linda Walden, Elsie Bisset, Kevin Essington, Susan Westa

- Janice Thurlow called the meeting to order at 7:00 and all attendees introduced themselves.
- *Overview* - Kevin Essington gave an overview and history of the Borderlands Project and the Village Innovation Pilot (VIP). Kevin then discussed the role of the Pilot team and stressed the importance of it connecting with the rest of the community.
- *Vendors* - Kevin also led a discussion about the RFP and consultant selection process. There was some concern about an “outsider” coming in and telling them what to do, while others welcomed a fresh perspective. A key concern was to ensure that this is an organic or grass roots process. Linda Walden explained that next week each consultant will have about an hour for their presentation and questions.

The team decided they would like to have a discussion after the vendor presentations. They scheduled a meeting for February 6th at 7:00 PM.

- *Defining the project* - There was also a discussion about what this project is going to be. The importance of having people with knowledge of what policy changes are needed and how to get those changes made, was discussed. There was concern that the project documents seem to focus more on village issues than conservation. Kevin explained that wasn't the intent and will try to clarify the importance of balance in the future.



- *Coordinator* – Kevin introduced Susan Westa, the new Borderlands VIP Coordinator. Susan gave an overview of her background and the Green Valley Institute. Susan will work half time at both positions for the next year to, hopefully, 18 months.
- *Officers* – Linda Walden agreed that she or Elsie Bisset would be the Recording Secretary. There was an in depth discussion about the structure of the Pilot Team. Some liked the Co-Chair approach and some liked the idea of a rotating chair. Some were concerned about various interests being represented by the leadership. It was suggested that the development of an executive committee or subcommittee might be useful. The team decided to leave the structure as is for now, until the consultant is hired. The group agreed that they like the idea of having a consensus approach to decision-making and requiring the team to act as a “body.”
- *Website* - A couple folks noted that the Borderlands website is confusing – has too much verbage. Killingly noted that they have a new website with an onsite poll. Linda asked everyone to think about a few questions they would like to ask about the Borderlands VIP project using this poll.
- *Monthly Meetings* - The team decided they would like to meet on the 4th Thurs. of each month at the Library with the 4th Wed. as an alternate. Linda is checking on the availability.
- *Killingly Tercentennial* – Elsie Bisset presented any overview of this event. There will be a reception May 3rd and an all day celebration May 31. They would like to have the Borderlands VIP present. This is a potential outreach opportunity for the visioning process.
- *Orton Foundation Visit* – Linda mentioned that Orton was coming down for next week’s meetings and there might be an opportunity to have dinner with them and/or take them on a tour. She suggested dinner at the Golden Greek at 4:45 (w/everyone paying for their own meal). Anyone interested in attending should let Linda know.