

Village Pathways Committee

Meeting minutes 3/11/2010

Members present: Liz Lapham, Carol Gerkin, Dave Sias, Pam Coburn, and Tammy Levesque

Guests present: Tammy Levesque (?), Sarah Tellier, Terry Lance

The meeting commenced at 2:40

Liz introduced and welcomed Terry Lance, long time resident of Meredith and hiker, who has agreed to join our committee.

Liz has sent a condolence note on behalf of the Village Pathways Committee to Ann Brienza regarding the death of her mother. Ann has a PO Box, but we do not know the number. We need a list of addresses for committee members.

Old Business

Tammy Levesque reported progress on coordination of the pathway/ Health Fair event now scheduled for 6/5/10. This date enables us to be a host site for Walk New Hampshire's program 6/1-6/6.

Tammy passed out a handout from the Walk New Hampshire web site and showed an example of their mileage log. Individuals or groups can set a challenge to track with this log. Upon completion, each participating individual will receive an "I Walked NH" patch and certificate signed by the governor and first lady. She hopes to distribute these logs in the schools in May and we will also have a supply available on 6/5.

Tammy has obtained permits for the GMP sign at the junction of Routes 3 and 104 and also for the sign at Hesky Park. Liz suggested adding the digital sign at Meredith Village Savings Bank.

Permits to reserve Hesky Park and to conduct a raffle are complete and ready to submit. The committee agreed on "Meredith Walks" as the name of our event and set 10 AM as the start time.

Sarah is developing a list of donors. Kashi is sending \$500 worth of energy bars. Liz reported Bootleggers would not support us this year, but she will go back to them once we have a price for the tee shirts.

HEAL has voted to give us \$250 if we will put their logo on our map handout. In general the committee favored this alliance, but we have problems making space on our map and cannot make any decision without consulting the town manager and/or Select Board because we are a town committee. Liz will check with Phil. Alton, B&R and WOW have agreed to use the HEAL logo on their literature.

Tammy will put the event on the town and the Chamber of Commerce web site. She will consult Bonnie Ireland of the Greater Meredith Program to contact local businesses. We considered publishing a colorful flyer that businesses could post in their windows. There will be notices on television and radio, possibly an interview on the Pat Kelly show.

Carol Gerkin reported her investigation on Safe Routes to School, a national initiative through the Department of Transportation. Moneys from this program are not grants but come in the form of reimbursements for expenditures made by towns and schools. State grants require cooperation of a variety of authorities, surveys and hard data on current

practices. Carol concluded that the instructions for participation are so involved and complex that this effort would require a separate task force, but that we could push for a one day Walk-to-School before schools close for the summer to raise awareness. The Community Center might serve as a drop-off point. Sarah suggested that high school students could line the path and act as chaperones for younger pupils.

To get off the ground, Safe Routes to School needs a campaign to educate the public and develop support particularly amongst parents. Carol suggested that the PTO would be a good organization to take up this cause.

Carol has an appointment with the schools' superintendent on March 19.

Tammy agreed to find out what other towns are involved with Safe Routes to Schools so we can learn from their experiences.

The committee discussed using the "Meredith Walks" 6/5 event as an opportunity to survey participants about Safe Routes to School.

Dave Sias reported that he had contacted 3 companies to price signs for our walks. His pilot design, roughly 5x7, includes the pathway logo and a colored coded arrow indicating path direction. Paquette, the only company that could meet requirements, can produce painted aluminum signs for \$20. Since we need 30-35 signs our cost would be \$600-700. Signs are small enough that we can use existing sign poles in most places. Mounting signs on telephone poles is a problem, but we may be able to obtain permission for specific poles.

Dave also advocated a laminated map display at the town docks where we hope to locate a distribution point for our guide literature.

Future Planning.

We are now interested in extending walks to outlying areas and points of interest like Page Pond, Leavitt Beach, Pinnacle Park lake access and Bonney Shores Road. Members are asked to consider these possibilities for the April meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 3:50

Next meeting 4/8 @ 2:30.