

HEART COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES: for the meeting of July 19, 2017

Committee Members Present:

Tracy Rogers, Secretary	Bob Keir	Sue O'Reilly McRae
Richard Fontaine	Renee Keir	Ginger Robinson
Cheryl George	Tony Matteo	Bill Wahlstrom

Committee Members Absent:

Michele Giarusso, Lisa Armstrong , Joseph Arsenault , Claire Brennan, Jennifer Comiskey, Alan Genovese, Jennifer Glazier, Lynn Hansell , Jack Killeen , Shannon Miner

Others Present:

Debbie Lynangale, facilitator; Shelby Ashline, The Recorder; Bob Raymond, Brian Keir, and Stan Garland, Bernardston Selectboard; Doc Pryne, Warwick Selectboard

Called to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

Announcements

Tracy announced that Sharon Fontaine resigned and has asked the Leyden Selectboard to appoint someone to fill her seat.

Minutes

Bob moved to approve minutes from the June 14, 2017 meeting as written. The motion was seconded by Tony and carried by a unanimous vote.

Community Compact Grant

Tracy explained the scope of work of Northfield's grant application, which was primarily for continued meeting facilitation. Sue explained that Warwick approved the application, but wants a change in the scope of work. The scope of work must be the same, since the two towns are applying for a joint grant for \$25,000. Sue reported that the Adams Cheshire School District received a Community Compact grant of \$35,000 to do a similar study, but they hired the Collins Institute to conduct data collection and analysis and write a 110-page report. The Superintendent of the Adams Cheshire District thought the report was very helpful and allowed them to put necessary changes into effect with support. The Warwick Selectboard would prefer to have the grant funds spent on data analysis, not on meeting facilitation.

Bernardston selectmen stated that they want to know what changes we need to make over the next 3-5 years, via the District Agreement, to keep the District viable.

Debbie disclosed her conflict of interest. She reported that she the funds she has left from the original \$6,000 grant will get us through the end of October. It will cost approximately \$7,000-8,000 to get us through the end of the 2017-2018 school year. Then Debbie left the room so the Committee could speak without her present.

Doc Pryne, Warwick selectman, explained that Warwick wants concrete deliverables. Hiring a facilitator does not provide concrete deliverables. He believes an outside view, such as what the Collins Institute would provide, is important.

The Committee discussed ways to support both endeavors: keeping a meeting facilitator on and hiring someone to conduct data analysis. **Tracy made a motion to request \$8,000 to keep Debbie on as facilitator and request the rest of the \$25,000 for an outside firm to conduct data analysis. Rick seconded the motion.** Bob Keir pointed out that we are going to have to go out to bid for data analysis services, so it won't necessarily be the Collins Institute, nor do we know exactly how much it will cost. Doc stated that Warwick would be more comfortable with \$4,000-\$5,000 for the facilitator and the remaining for data analysis. **Bob moved to amend the motion to state that approximately \$20,000 of it would be spent on outside help for data analysis and \$5,000 for a facilitator. Tony seconded the motion and it was carried by a unanimous vote.**

Sue and Tracy will go back to their respective selectboards and get approval for a revised scope of work based on the vote of the Committee. Sue will ask the State for an extension on the grant application until Warwick holds their next Selectboard meeting on August 1.

Subcommittee Reports

Tony was the only subcommittee member present to report and he reported that his subcommittee had not met since the Committee's last meeting. Tony proposed creating a subcommittee to review the District Agreement and make recommendations for changes.

Debbie reported that Michele has created a document with bios, which includes only seven members of the Committee. More people need to send their bio information to Michele. There was some discussion as to who "official" Committee members are, which caused some members to wonder if they should send their bio in. The Committee agreed that any community member or teacher who was invited to join the Committee is invited to send bio to Michele.

August School Committee Meeting

The August School Committee meeting is August 24, 7 p.m. at the Pioneer Valley Regional High School Library. Sue will confirm that we are on the agenda.

There was some discussion about the feeling that the Committee needs to focus its work. Is reviewing the District Agreement something that could run parallel with other work, or does it have to happen in series, and in which order?

Debbie explained that, though progress feels slow, it takes some time to create a group that functions. Especially one without a clear mandate such as the HEART Committee.

Subcommittee to Review the District Agreement

The Committee discussed Tony's proposal to create a subcommittee to start reviewing the District Agreement. Sue will check on the updates to legal language the School Committee is making. Bob and Tony volunteered to serve on the subcommittee. Bob will ask Alan if he also wants to participate.

Next Meeting Date

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, August 16, 6:30 p.m. at the Bernardston Senior Center. This will resume our every other week meeting schedule.

Adjournment

Bob moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:08 p.m. Tony seconded the motion and it was carried by a unanimous vote.

NEXT MEETING: August 16, 6:30 p.m. at the Bernardston Senior Center, 20 Church St.

HOMEWORK:

- **Subcommittees get reports out to full Committee before 8/16 meeting.**
- **Sue check on School Committee's legal updates to the District Agreement.**
- **Bob check with Alan to see if he wants to be on the District Agreement Review Subcommittee.**
- **Tracy and Sue will rewrite the Community Compact scope of work and present it to the Northfield and Warwick selectboards for approval.**
- **Members should send bios to Michele.**

*Respectfully submitted,
Tracy Rogers*