

Minutes: Thursday, December 10, 2020

Monterey Community Center Committee

Due to Covid-19, the Monterey Community Center is closed. This meeting was held by conference call, after unsuccessfully trying a Zoom meeting.

Meeting commenced: 10:20 am

Present: Laurie Shaw, Kyle Pierce, Mary Makuc, Wendy Jensen, Elaine Lynch, Dennis Lynch, Roz Halberstadter, and JoAnn Bell

Next Meeting Date: **Thursday, January 14, 2021 at 10am by Zoom**

-Minutes were approved for November 12, 2020 meeting.

Review of Past Programs

-Yoga has moved to the library. There were 3 attendees in person and 4-5 via Zoom.

-AlAnon has moved to all online.

-Balance Review has 6-7 attendees via phone.

-American Chestnut Foundation Event by Janet Jensen had 12 attendants online. The chestnut tasting event at Kevin West's had about 20 people.

-Stephanie Sloane had 45 Zoom attendees. She would like to do another event in the spring.

-Monterey Lights the Holidays: Elaine said there were about 64 people in attendance and was a very successful community project. Everyone loved the hand held battery candles. More lights will be added to what is already in place. Dennis is checking with Shawn into lighting the fence in front of the school. We may need to use battery lights there. Dennis has written a grant for \$750 for next year's Monterey Lights the Holidays event through the Cultural Council. It was brought up that the Eagle ran an article on this event prior to it happening which during these Covid times was probably not a good idea.

-Ping Pong- there have only been 4 players in the building at a time. The players are keeping records and following protocols. It was suggested that around the holidays to remind folks to take extra caution when having visitors from red zones (high Covid rates).

Upcoming Programs

-Liz Mashmeyer will discuss dehydrating fruit and vegetables via Zoom on Saturday, January 30 at 11am.

-Karen Shreefter will have a program on garden designs. It was suggested that the program be geared towards perennial gardens for both sun and shade. There was another suggestion for the program to be about house plants.

-Mary reported on writing a grant for \$750 to have Pops Peterson run a program. He is a Berkshire artist and public speaker known for his award winning series, Rockwell Reinvented.

-Wendy will be writing to the Cookbook Club members to see if they might like to Zoom their meetings in the future, much like Stockbridge is doing.

-JoAnn doesn't have any info on cooks at this time. She suggested asking local folks to demonstrate if we could supply the videographer. It would be great to have some food diversity. Cookbook author, Jeanne Lemlin has been contacted but she is too busy right now.

Other Business:

-There was discussion about getting the tent again for 2-3 months in 2021. There may be some funds left from the CARES ACT.

- Dennis gave us an update on the Zoom Account. It is in place for \$150/year. If someone wants to use it it can be set up through Dennis, Joe Baker, Laurie, Mary and/or Evelyn Valianos.
- Dennis wondered about a solar powered light to light the MCC sign. He will look into the cost.
- Mary would like some help to go over the MCC budget which needs to be submitted by the end of the year. Laurie, Elaine, Wendy and Mary will meet to discuss the numbers. Mary will set up the meeting.
- Lighting: No new information. Wendy offered to check with Rob Hoogs from Foresight who was the contractor for the library lighting. She will also check with Construct to see who helped with the lighting at the new housing property on State Road in Great Barrington. Mary suggested writing to the Google group to see if anyone knows of someone who could help.
- Mary signed the CC up with Dominic Stucker's pledge to "Stop Hate Together". This means there will be a sign at the Community Center. Taking the pledge cost \$35 which was paid by the FWMH.
- Mary attended a Pathways Conference with the subject matter being that "all people are being treated with fairness and respect".
- Covid regulations are being tightened up by the Governor so we need to be aware of those. Mary reported that the thermometers are in and at the CC for use.
- Southern Berkshire Chamber of Commerce is looking for what's going on in the community. They want to know what the CC used to do prior to Covid and what the future plans are. Mary and Laurie will be on the radio. It was suggested that they stress that although there are programs, the Community Center is NOT open.
- Mary and Laurie reported about the CC's presence on the Town Website and they made some suggestions to Melissa. It was suggested that the CC's website needs to be highlighted, it is not easy to find.
- It was suggested to send a thank you to Sue Cain for her volunteering. Mary is wondering if we should be looking for another person for the committee. Nancy Kleban is still doing work for the CC. There was discussion about the tax rebate for seniors who want to help, this is available for ALL senior landowners in Monterey.
- The honorarium for Tom Ryan was paid from the FWMH.

Meeting adjourned: 11:50 am

Respectfully submitted by: Wendy Jensen