SGC Meeting 8.6.26

In attendance; Ann Heffernon, Mike York, Mark LaBelle, Dick Lane, Lea Dunham, Josh Guion, Scott Self, Eric May

Call to order 5:33 PM

Motion to approve notes from 7/10/26

Overview

Ann Heffernon updated the committee on the upcoming community conversation at Pilgrim Pines, emphasizing the need for feedback on community engagement. Interact will provide light refreshments and help with any children in attendance. The event aims to foster dialogue and potentially lead to a $3,000 funded project. Heffernon discussed outreach strategies, including posting flyers at libraries, post offices, and churches, and leveraging social media. The committee also debated the feasibility of updating town ordinances, such as the dog ordinance and fireworks regulations, considering state compliance and enforcement challenges. They agreed to review and prioritize ordinances for potential updates, with select board approval required for any changes.

Action Items

- Heffernon - Coordinate food and beverage logistics for the Pilgrim Pines community conversation (muffins, bagels, and fruit salad) and confirm Interact's volunteer staffing so breakfast does not interfere with the main discussion.
- Heffernon - Arrange for laminated or otherwise durable versions of the community conversation poster to be prepared (possibly with Jerry's help) so they look neat when taped up at libraries, the post office, and other public locations.
- Ann Heffernon - Ensure printed community conversation flyers are taped together and posted at the town library, post office, and any other agreed-upon public locations to promote attendance.
- Ann Heffernon - Create and run a paid Facebook ad campaign promoting the upcoming Pilgrim Pines community conversation.
- Heffernon - Ask Ashlee to post information about the community conversation on the town's Instagram account.
- Heffernon - Send a personal invitation to Eileen at Coffee Connections to attend or participate in the community conversation, given their interest in engaging youth.
- Heffernon - Visit the SAU/School District office tomorrow morning to request permission to distribute the community conversation flyer via school email lists and obtain approval for its inclusion in an upcoming parent communication.
- Heffernon - Place the final order for pastries, bagels, and fruit salad for the Pilgrim Pines community conversation.
- Heffernon - Attend Keene's nonprofit-focused community conversation at the library on the Saturday before the Pilgrim Pines event to observe format and engagement strategies.

- Heffernon - Draft a short opening statement or question to frame the Pilgrim Pines community conversation, ensuring it aligns with New Hampshire Humanities' guidelines for feedback-gathering.
- Heffernon - Send copies of the relevant ordinance drafts (including the police-related ordinance and the list of suggested ordinances) to committee members so they can review and prioritize revision work.
- Heffernon - Prepare and circulate materials for the committee to review at the next meeting, focusing on revising the fireworks ordinance and the dogs-in-parks ordinance, including background context and key questions.

Outline

Community Conversation Planning and Updates

- Ann Heffernon announces that Mark Scalera will no longer be on the committee due to health reasons but is available as a voice if needed.
- Ann Heffernon requests a motion to approve the notes from the previous meeting, which is seconded and approved.
- Ann Heffernon discusses the community conversation event at Pilgrim Pines, mentioning that Interact will help serve food and that New Hampshire Humanities will facilitate the conversation.
- The event aims to gather feedback on how to make the town more engaged and to foster community connections.
- Ann Heffernon mentions that Ashley will post information about the event on the town website and other places, and that Keen is hosting a similar event for nonprofits.

Engagement Strategies and Outreach

- Ann Heffernon seeks advice on where to post information about the community event, considering schools, churches, and other organizations.
- Speaker 2 suggests sending information to churches but not interrupting Sunday services, and Ann Heffernon agrees.
- Ann Heffernon considers contacting the school district to send information to parents via email.
- Speaker 2 advises sharing the event information on Facebook, and Ann Heffernon agrees to post it again and ask Ashley to share it on Instagram.
- Ann Heffernon discusses the importance of making the event apolitical and avoiding inviting state representatives.

Event Logistics and Coordination

- Ann Heffernon confirms that Interact will help with food for the event, serving pastries, bagels, and fruit salad.
- The conversation will be guided by New Hampshire Humanities, and the end result may be a project that someone else runs with.

- Heffernon mentions that the event will be apolitical and that she has sent information to committee heads and Katie at the town hall.
- Guion suggests contacting the school district to send information to parents via email, and Heffernon agrees to do so.
- Heffernon plans to send personal invitations to Eileen Longe and other key community members.

Ordinance Committee's Role and Responsibilities

- Heffernon reads the mission statement of the Governance committee, which includes strengthening communication and engagement and assisting in the coordination of community events.
- The committee will also help the select board update and write town ordinances as directed.
- Heffernon discusses the need to gather information and expertise to update ordinances, and the importance of collaboration and transparency.
- Lane mentions that the committee should provide information and venues for the select board to educate the townspeople.
- Heffernon and others discuss the feasibility of updating various ordinances, including the fireworks ordinance and the dog ordinance.

Discussion on Specific Ordinances

- Heffernon suggests sending out a list of suggested ordinances for the committee to review and rank.
- Lane advises taking one ordinance at a time and discussing it in detail before making any changes.
- The committee discusses the fireworks ordinance, noting that it may need updates but that enforcement is challenging.
- York mentions that the police cannot enforce the ordinance effectively during events like the Fourth of July.
- Heffernon agrees to send out the list of ordinances for the committee to review and decide which ones to focus on first.

Next Steps and Meeting Conclusion

- Heffernon confirms that the committee will review and discuss two ordinances at the next meeting.
- Question - Does the select board needs to approve any changes, and Heffernon confirms that they do.
- The committee agrees to proceed with the review process and make recommendations to the select board. Heffernon thanks everyone for their participation and concludes the meeting.
- Meeting adjourned at 6:25 PM