Ann Heffernon discussed the success of a community conversation event organized by Keen, involving New Hampshire Humanities and an artist. The event focused on defining community and proposed a county-wide database of community resources. Heffernon plans a similar event on Saturday, with support from Interact and Pilgrim Pines. A $3,000 grant for community projects was also mentioned. The group also discussed the need for better community engagement, including more inclusive events and improved communication between town committees. Additionally, updates on the town's water and sewer projects were provided, with preliminary engineering costs estimated at $20 million and a potential grant of $500,000 for the water company purchase.

Action Items

- Ann Heffernon - Attend Wednesday's Eileen's meeting and talk about Saturday's community conversation event to encourage participation.
- Ann Heffernon - Prepare signs directing attendees to Pilgrim Pines from East Shore Drive and a sign indicating the parking area across from the building for Saturday's community event.
- Ann Heffernon - Arrive at Pilgrim Pines around 9:00 a.m. on Saturday to set up the room layout, ensure the food is ready, and coordinate with New Hampshire Humanities and the CDFC.
- Ann Heffernon - Confirm whether Mark, Eric, and Dan can attend Saturday's community event and report back to the group.
- Ann Heffernon - Email Erica to ask whether he knows how to edit videos and could help create an informational video for the upcoming water company purchase project.
- Ann Heffernon - Reach out to Interact (and potentially Jay) to see if they can help edit or produce a promotional video for the water company purchase project, similar to the fire station videos.
- Ann Heffernon - Check with the former Old Home Day contact to see if any Eagle Scout projects in town could be used to promote and publicize the upcoming water company purchase project.
- Ann Heffernon - Send copies of Ashley's proposed dog-control ordinance to committee members who request them ahead of the next meeting.
- Ann Heffernon - Draft a plan for town meeting public education on the water company purchase, including timing, venue, format, and key messages, based on information provided by the water/sewer committee at the next meeting.
- Review Ashley's proposed dog-control ordinance and identify any changes or edits to bring to the next committee meeting.
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- Determine what level of detail and supporting visuals (maps, photos, etc.) to include in the information package for the water company purchase, so it can be used in the upcoming public education materials.

Community Event Planning Meeting

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Outline

Saturday's Event Planning and Community Conversation

- Ann Heffernon discusses the success of a community conversation event organized by Keene, involving New Hampshire Humanities, an artist, a facilitator, and other participants.
- The event focused on defining community and breaking into groups to come up with implementable ideas, with all groups proposing a county-wide database listing various community resources.
- Ann Heffernon expresses hope for a good turnout for the upcoming event, mentioning efforts to promote it through school mailings, Facebook, and personal invitations.
- Interact will participate by engaging kids in activities, and Pilgrim Pines will provide a large space and refreshments.

Logistics and Participation for the Event

- Ann Heffernon details the logistics for the event, including signage for parking and directions to the venue.
- She mentions the involvement of various town officials and committees, and the importance of having signs to guide attendees.
- Ann Heffernon asks if anyone can attend the event, with some members expressing their inability to attend.
- The discussion includes the allocation of a $3,000 check to the town for a communal project, with ideas ranging from family activities to supporting local organizations.

Discussion on Community Engagement and Event Ideas

- The group discusses the need for more inclusive and engaging community events, mentioning past successful events like trunk or treat.
- Ann Heffernon shares examples of community projects from other towns, such as community hubs, community dinners, and arboretums.
- The conversation touches on the challenges of getting people involved in town activities, especially those with young children.
- Ideas for future events include more festivals, outdoor movies, and utilizing local venues like the Potash Bowl and Richardson Park.

Challenges and Opportunities for Community Venues

- Ann Heffernon mentions the need for better publicity and promotion of existing events to increase participation.
- The conversation highlights the need for more collaboration between different town committees and organizations.
- Ideas for future events include involving local schools, churches, and community groups to enhance participation and engagement.

Planning for Future Meetings and Ordinance Updates

- The group discusses the need to plan for future meetings and gather information to better inform the public about upcoming projects.

- Heffernon suggests starting with a small ordinance update, such as the dog ordinance, to get a feel for the process.
- The group agrees to read and discuss the dog ordinance at the next meeting, with the goal of making necessary updates.
- The conversation includes the importance of having clear communication and collaboration between different town committees and organizations.

Water and Sewer Project Updates

- Scott provides an update on the water and sewer projects, including the need for preliminary engineering and the potential cost of $20 million.
- The group discusses the importance of securing grants and funding for these projects, with a focus on the water company purchase first.
- The conversation includes the potential impact of the TIF district on financing infrastructure projects.
- The group agrees to table further discussions on the sewer project until more information is available, with a focus on the water company purchase in the near future.

Finalizing Meeting Plans and Next Steps

- The group agrees to finalize plans for the next meeting, including gathering information and creating a draft plan for public communication.
- Ann Heffernon suggests involving local organizations like Cub Scouts and Interact to help with promoting the projects.
- The group discusses the importance of clear communication and collaboration between different town committees and organizations.
- The meeting concludes with a motion to adjourn, with plans to follow up with absent members and continue working on the proposed projects.