

Rupert Village Trust Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday, October 10, 6 - 8 pm

Agenda

- 6:00 Approve minutes from previous meeting
- 6:05 Treasurer's Report [Link here](#)
- 6:10 RD Grant:
 - Next steps
- 6:20 Funding/grants spreadsheet (segue to ...) [LINK HERE](#)
 - MTAP Status
 - VHIP Status
 - VHCB meeting report
 - AARP Placemaking grant status
- 6:30 Vermont Community Foundation grant
- 6:35 Americorps update/info [Volunteer Coordinator](#)
- 6:40 Community Sharing Tree
- 6:45 Basket Raffle Brain Dump
- 7:00 Dinner
- 7:15 Strategic Planning conference that Nancy attended [Link to Notes](#)
- 7:20 Facilities Use Agreement [LINK HERE](#)
- 7:30 Events Template [LINK HERE](#)
- 7:40 Property tax: is it time to ask the town to forgive property tax?
- 7:50 Unveil Mary's Gift to Jed

Minutes

- Meeting opened at 6:08 PM. Deb Fuller, Jane Davies, Janet Hentschel, Nancy Poletti, Mary Dickson, Jed Rubin and John La Vecchia in attendance.
- Minutes from the September meeting were approved as submitted.
- Deb reported on the success of our recent capital campaign and of the basket raffle. Funds are currently in two different checking accounts, one for the remainder of the original grant for the

project and one for other funds. Deb and Jed mentioned the possibility of considering a different interest-bearing account for some of these funds. Janet suggested establishing a small endowment or building maintenance fund with some of them. Deb will look into options for the next meeting.

- There isn't anything new to report on the RD Grant so we will table it until the next meeting.
- Jane will contact Nicole Gratton and Jon Saccoccio to discuss MTAP funded work on the Harrington House. Jessica Savage at VCRD will look into it further to see how it will be funded at the RVT and/or town level. VHCB funding may also be available for this work. Some of these may also involve matching funds that we have already raised for various aspects of our project work. Deb wants to be sure we understand the implications and responsibilities if/when accepting grant funding. This can be different for feasibility and for implementation.
- Janet's original idea for the AARP Placemaking grant was for 6 different educational presentation topics. She also has looked into tai chi instruction. The grant application is due on Monday 10/14 and Janet has had some difficulty accessing the online form but will continue pursuing it.
- The Vermont Community Foundation grant will provide for 3 events in 2025.
- The three ukulele events funded by the Vermont Arts Council grant are in October, January and May. Signups to date have been slow for the first event. If that's because people don't have an instrument, we should discuss how to address that issue. Board members are welcome to make or bring dinner for the students and instructor. We will finalize numbers for dinner on the Thursday before the Saturday concert.
- We discussed possible opportunities for an Americorps position as a volunteer coordinator. We should all think further about how we could use a position like this, possibly as a 1-year position, though the lack of continuity can be challenging during transitions.
- Deb talked about the community sharing tree. Karen Allen is helping run this program this year. We all agreed it would be great to participate. The community sharing project group expects to

distribute the trees and angels around November 15. Deb will gather more information from Karen about it.

- We can all look at Nancy's strategic planning conference notes and the notes about the facilities use agreement.
- Regarding the basket raffle:
 - We think Jess Wood was happy with the turnout. She said she would certainly like to do it again next year.
 - There was more breakfast food overlap between coffee hour volunteers and Jess than we expected. Perhaps we should have coffee hour breakfast items from Flour Girl but not from volunteers in order to give more traffic to the food vendor.
 - Nancy suggested having lucite frames for each basket with a clear description of the contents.
 - Last-minute basket deliveries present challenges. We should talk with Renee about how to improve this for her.
 - We talked about improving coordination with the library mum/pie sale and the church rummage sale. We and the library might prefer it to be a week earlier in September. Jane suggested September 13, 2025 as a possible date.
 - Whatever the date, we should be clear on whether or not it coincides with the Peru Fair. For food vendor availability it's better if the basket raffle isn't on the same day as the Fair.
 - As with last year, 50 baskets is about the maximum for the space in the Store.
 - We discussed having music on the town green as another draw for the event.
 - We should try to have a better PA system for announcing the basket winners. Jane will try to have her amp repaired.
 - Mary unveiled her gift of a wall clock for the Store, now known as Jed's clock
- Meeting ended at 8:20 PM.