

11/18/2022.....Meeting House Walk-Through with:

1. Ben Doyle, President - Preservation Trust of Vermont
2. Caitlin Corkins - Division of Historic Preservation Vermont
3. Natalie Elvidge - Northern Borders Regional Commission
4. Andy Julow - LIEDC

In attendance: David Carter, Mary Harwood, Linda Seavey, Sarah Kjelleren, Sandy Gregg, Emily Klofft-NRPC, Judy Duval, Bev Blakely, Donna Boumil

1. **USDA** - Check with them for loan information. **Sandy G.** will contact.
2. **Community Technical Assistance Grant** for bond assistance. **Mary H.** to contact
3. **Rural Economic Development Initiative** - 5-8 thousand for grant writing assistance
4. **Ben** stated: Bruhn grant requires review for 1st phase and 2nd/3rd phase as well
5. **ALL Construction docs needed for NEPA review.** Therefore, get estimate from A&S what all construction docs would cost and timeframe to receive them. **David C. will contact A&S.**
6. **Congressional directed spending:** Ben suggested we do the same tour & talk: Welsh reps, Sanders & Balint reps and include local reps & senator etc.
Ben said he could possibly get some high level State officials here, too.
Andy Julow said he would set it up BEFORE Jan 1st (new legislative session)
7. **Natalie E. stressed economic impact of the project:** List *everything* it touches:
 - Space for winter farmers's market (LOS coming)
 - Bicyclists stopping place to rest (benches, bike racks & repair station) Locomotion-LOS Sandy G. to contact. **Business stimulation-** walk to: Blue Paddle, Arbor Farm Market, Pan's Pizza, Victoria's Cafe, Bank, SH Museum, Seb's & Viva Market Place, Hardware Store
 - Meeting House Community Hall & Small Meeting Room: Groups such as family reunions, small weddings (supports caterers), incubator space-small meeting room, whole building WiFi, classes (yoga, art, singing etc), public dances, small concerts, blackbox theatre productions, clubs, readings etc.
 - **Job creation:** new Town Administrator position job description to include managing the building.
 - **Job retention:** all the positions that support activities listed above; caterers, teachers, small businesses, farmers, artists, hobbyists, community members in general...
 - **Grannys Attic:** Volunteer organization that takes in ~\$30,000 per year that it turns around and distributes to local non-profits such as CIDER, RIF, Police Camp, Worthen Library, Fire & Rescue, Food Bank etc.
 - **New Rec Park** to be located immediately behind the Meeting House. Draws recreational enthusiasts & families, creates healthy, vibrant community
 - **Meeting House & Rec Park create a core identity for the Town.**
8. **Why is Grand Isle County the only county in Vt NOT eligible for USDA funds?**
we have ~30% of our students who use food credits for school meals. **David C.** will investigate. If our income per household looks high it is likely caused by a small percentage of wealthy individuals who may not even spend the whole year in the county. They are skewing the numbers. Needs to be viewed in a new way so as not to discriminate.

(Notes by Sandy Gregg)