



**October Board Meeting Minutes | 10/20/2020, 8AM**

**Present:** Steve Peters, Nikki Hindman, Shannon Poole, Jen Usher, Tiffany Keune, Eddie Ryan, Janelle Howard, Katye Munger, Tammy Landon, Betsy Franzoni

**Absent:** Rebecca Buonadonna, Jessi Travers-Moulton, Eileen Coughlin, Lisa Ryan

Meeting was called to order by President Shannon Poole at 8:02am.

**Motion to approve the September Board Meeting Minutes:** Motion: Eddie. Second: Katye. Motion approved.

**Treasurer's Report:**

Treasurer Eddie Ryan read the September Treasurer's Report. Motion of approval for September Treasurer's report: Motion: Jen. Second: Tammy. Motion approved.

**Committee Reports:**

**Streetscape:**

- Corn stalks went up on 80 light poles this week.
- Chad will be removing plants from the Garden Club boxes and Center Street planters this week. The Garden Club plans to add greens starting on November 4th.
- We're taking out the parklets on Center Street at the end of this month and storing them in the Center Street alley.
- Planters and baskets are coming down this week for winter storage.
- Wayfinding signage update:
  - The Steering Committee reviewed the proposals for the signage project and narrowed them down to one firm, which will be approved by the RRA.
- The latest marble sculpture was unveiled last week on Merchants Row.

**Marketing:** Nikki

- We have a joint Events + Marketing committees meeting scheduled for tomorrow morning to talk about the upcoming holiday season.
- Nikki will be on WEXP radio on Friday morning to talk about Halloween happenings.
- We will be sending out surveys for the retail passport initiative to measure its impact on the businesses and the community.

**Events:** Nikki

- Nikki and Steve are working with Zip Barnard and Claude Derosiers, volunteers from the Halloween Parade, to create window displays for Halloween. We will be distributing over 30 historical parade photos around downtown on Friday. The displays will be up from Saturday, October 24th through Halloween.
- Nikki and Steve will be distributing 12 pumpkins and cards for the Halloween Scavenger Hunt today and tomorrow. Entries with at least 5 found jack o'lanterns can be submitted online for a chance to win a \$50 gift card.
- The Rutland Art Ramble, which consists of a series of storefronts filled with artwork from local artists and organizations like the Carving Studio and Chaffee Art Center, has a new round of artwork in the empty storefronts around downtown.

**Business Development:** Steve

- We paid out the 9 Covid-19 supply reimbursement checks. We have half of the funding left, so the application is still open on our website.
- We paid out the Pyramid and Taso grants, each worth \$2,000, with projects in process.
- We have one pending project that was approved for the Center Street Alley that has not been paid out.

**Executive Director Update:** Steve

- Last week Steve toured 80 West Street with CEDRR and management from the Rutland Food Co-op. The building was recently purchased and there is plenty of space for development.
- We are meeting with the new director of Come Alive Outside today.
- Nikki is attending the Adobe Max conference virtually.
- Steve and Nikki will be attending an AARP placemaking conference and Downtown Rebound virtual conference next week.

**New Business:** The Sound Barrier will be hosting a pop up shop for the months of November and December.

**Old Business:** None

**RRA Update:** Tiffany Keune

- The RRA is reviewing the Wayfinding Signage Proposal.
- BROC applied for CARES Act funding for freezers.
- There was an application for Pine Hill Park for additional funding to create more trails that has since been moved to the Parks & Rec department.
- Vermont State Colleges received \$2.3 million for additional training.
- Neighborhoods received rental repair funding that's available for landlords.

**BOA Update:** Lisa Ryan was absent.

**The meeting adjourned at 8:27am. Next meeting is 11/17/20 at 8am.**