

# **Sandy Mush Community Center**

## **Board of Directors**

### Agenda

*Monday, August 19, 2019*

Call to Order and Welcome – President (5 Minutes) (7:00 pm)

#### **Minutes and Financial Reports: 15 minutes**

- Minutes – Bruce Larson (5 minutes)
- Financial Reports – Mark Diaz (10 minutes)

#### **New Business: 25 minutes**

- Community Foundation of WNC People in Need Grant –Jean Larson (5 minutes)
- Buncombe County Community and Rural Development Grant and WNC Honors Award – Bruce Larson (5 minutes)
- Buncombe County Rec Grant – Vanessa Campbell (5 minutes)
- New Youth Program for Home Schoolers– Peggy Baldwin (10 minutes)

#### **Oral Reports and Status Updates: 15 minutes**

- Volunteer Dinner – John Loyd (5 minutes)
- November Dinner Dance – John Loyd (5 minutes)
- Upcoming Newsletter – Peggy Baldwin (5 minutes)

#### **Written Reports and Status Updates: 10 minutes**

- Forestry Coalition Report – Terri Wells
- Food Pantry Report – Jean Barbara
- Outdoor Rec Team Meeting Notes – Terri Wells
- Internet Report – Mark Diaz
- History Team/Veteran's Project Report – Terri Wells

#### **Community Announcements and Public Comment: 10 minutes**

Adjournment – President (8:20pm)

## **Forestry Coalition Written Report**

submitted by Terri Wells, as attending Community Member

The first Forestry Coalition meeting on August 1, 2019 was well attended, with good community input, and several useful government agencies participating. Building these relationships has valuable potential for our community. Here are a few highlights:

40+ individuals attended

Public agencies= 5 (NC Forest Service, Buncombe County Soil & Water, Madison County Soil & Water, NC Wildlife Resources Commission, Buncombe County Planning)

Nonprofit organizations= 5 (Forest Stewards Guild, EcoForesters, SAHC, Mountain True, Long Branch Environmental Education Center)

Private businesses/corporations= 2 (Wildwood Consulting, Evergreen Packaging)

### **Goals accomplished at first mtg**

1. Identification of themes that participants have in common- why do people value the forests in Sandy Mush?
  - a. Major themes: sense of place, value ecosystem services, challenges of invasive plants, working together
2. Sharing hopes and fears about the Sandy Mush Forest Restoration Coalition

#### *Fears*

- No Snacks!
- Not being able to sustain interest and drive long-term
- Long-term and widespread use of herbicides - wildlife, landscape, watersheds
- Not being able to follow through
- How it will be paid for
- Grant money actually used for work on the ground with landowners
- Cost-share not possible for some landowners-still a cost

#### *Hopes*

- Get people that aren't here interested.
- Hearing from the community
- Collaboration
- Learn how to manage the forest
- Community takes the time to learn
- Learning culture
- Develop workshops - free for landowners, community sharing knowledge
- Realistic expectations about invasives control, not eradication

- Keeping invasives out of places where we don't want them, forests, special areas
  - Forest management combined with a thriving community
3. Defining the scope of the problem
    - a. Gathered questions/comments from Coalition participants
    - b. Identified dimensions of the issue from Coalition participants:
      - i. Goals for the initiative (target
      - ii. Threats to goals (threats)
      - iii. Other contributing conditions (contributing factors)
      - iv. Possible strategies (strategies/activities)
  4. Defining the mapping/modeling project and nominating a mapping working group
    - a. Participatory mapping exercise to gather community's expertise on invasives in the community to inform Wade's model
  5. Identification of value propositions for different participant typologies/affiliations – What's in it for me (to be part of the Coalition)?

#### Next steps

- Nick will follow up about scheduling the next meeting (mid-Sept)
- People can send Nick any initial thoughts about the broader Forest Restoration Gathering event, to be held in November (?) Like, what can you teach or what would you be interested to learn? (next step: set up a work group for the event)
  - This will be more of an educational event- with indoor session of presenters, BBQ lunch, and field tours- disseminating information
- Lang will follow up with mapping project volunteers
- Nick will lead on translating the community input received into a framework for creating an action plan. The Coalition will use this framework to create their action plan.
- Nick will summarize the value propositions
- Nick will send follow-up email to all participants, summary of outcomes, next steps

#### **SMCC Food Pantry Report**

Submitted by Jean Barbara

At the July Food Pantry we served 58 households, 171 individuals and had 126 volunteer hours.

We were encouraged by MANNA to apply for the Western NC Community Foundation "People in Need" Grant to finish the construction of the downstairs kitchen, get other items needed to finish the room and carts for food storage and for the chairs and tables. We had submitted a Letter of Intent and were just

informed that we can now apply for the Grant. The Grant needs to be submitted by Sept 6<sup>th</sup>.

John Loyd and Jean Larson have volunteered to head up our Nutrition Works cooking demonstrations. They choose a recipe to prepare using fresh produce that we have on the day of the Pantry and also provide the printed recipe for people to take home with them. We usually do not know what produce will be available until last minute and they have both risen to the challenge! We had Egg Frittata in July and Spaghetti Squash Hash in August and both were well received. Who knew spaghetti squash could be so good? We can't thank them enough for taking on this task.

## **SMCC Community Center Rec Team**

Submitted by Angela Whitney

Meeting 08/8/19

Present: Terri Wells, Dianne Frisbee, Vance Garrett, Vanessa Campbell, Dene Surrect, Angela Whitney

Not able to come: Jessica McMahan, Brandi Boggs, Kevin Duckett, Azelia Johnson, Megan Johnson, Dylan McMahan.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Reviewed use of google drive to share documents and ideas

Reviewed ideas from last meeting for brain storming on rec team ideas

"Community ideas"—

Suggestions collected by members:

FB posts (Dianne Frisbee):

farmer's market- 6

Live music - 4

Community garden w/Garden classes, education- 9

Walking track - 6

PLAN: Dianne will let FB inquirer know he can contact this committee if interested in attending and/or a general rec meeting open to community at some time in the future.

Mountain Lady Farm input from Dene Surrect: (talking w/teenagers)

new basketball court, (not in parking lot)

park grill

tennis court

picnic tables

volleyball court

walking track

Neighbors

Jessica—heard most about pavilion for gatherings and walking track for walking/jogging

LuEllen—basketball, walking path, Frisbee/disc golf

Suggestion box: One received!:

Outdoor events: fall seed exchange,  
show horses, horse shoes, live music, badminton, corn hole

Miscellaneous: Discussed considering writing grant for upcoming ~mid October submission - discussed potential of proceeding with/ Outside water fountain for thirst, Port-a-john, basketball goal at paved area near playground.

Electric outlets (external) - consider in overall outdoor design plan

Flyers to churches: No action since last meeting

Plan: Terri Wells will ask Jessica McMahan, Vance Garrett, and Dene Surret to follow up.

Action ideas on going:

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1) Future meetings:

Last meeting's decision to meet 2 nd Thursday won't work downstairs

But library is available—

Plan: will meet in library 2 nd Thursday of month

2) For next meeting

- Church report
- Angela Whitney to Leicester Grocery and Garden
- Dianne Frisbee will continue with FB
- Vanessa Campbell will canvass people for Rec interests at upcoming Volunteers dinner 8/10
- Terri Wells will touch base with 4H and students with Peggy Baldwin
- Dianne Frisbee will touch in with FB inquirer as above.
- Terri Wells will ask Josh (head of BC Parks and Recs) about issues regarding water fountain, basketball court, port-a-potty. 8/19 Dene Surret, Vanessa Campbell, and Vance Garrett will discuss with SMCC Board potential of pursuing these upgrades to outdoor rec area and funding with upcoming BC Rec Grant.
- Neighbor to neighbor will continue with Rec team members
- Angela will take SMCC sign up to Leicester Grocery and Garden

- 8/19: Terri Wells will meet with youth group at 12 noon to talk about rec development
- it's noted that 4H club isn't meeting right now

3) Timetable projections, approximate:

Sept meeting to organize ideas/ group main themes

Oct or Nov consider a community meeting

4) Consider immediate requests for upcoming grant application cycle~~to be submitted ~mid October—Vanessa Campbell will write--~\$6000:

- Water fountain—what considerations do we need to think about?
- Port-a-potty—how much a month?
- Basketball court—Angela Whitney to ask son about basketball court info—at new cement pad by basketball court

Plan: Dene Surrent, Vance Garrett, and Vanessa Campbell will discuss with SMCC board 8/19/19

5) Responding to community suggestions outside scope of SMCC Rec Team:

Discussed Plan: SMCC Rec Team will pass info along about event ideas like live music, farmer's market, etc, as well as respond to FB event ideas. People submitting event ideas will be invited to the Board meeting 3rd Monday and let them know SMCC Rec team will pass suggestions along to the appropriate committees.

Note: request about community garden will be entertained by SMCC Rec Team, as well as acknowledging that many suggestions relate to desire for outdoor pavilion/event space.

### **Feedback to share with Event and Community Input Teams:**

**Ideas for outdoor events:**

1) Fall -- seed exchange

2) Fall -- band & show horses

covered dish, w/corn hole, bat mitton, horse shoes, etc.

(we can probably provide live music)

3) Summer -- soon

community event -- all welcome\*

Adjourned ~ 8:45pm

## **Sandy Mush History Group**

Written Board Report - Submitted by Terri Wells

The history group continues to meet on the 1st Monday of the month, currently meeting at 6pm. Interest continues to grow with recent positive developments. Terry Taylor, Burgin and Lucy Duckett's grandson attended and shared info about his upcoming history article on Big Sandy that will be posted on the 52 Weeks, 52 Communities: A Journey Through Buncombe County, a project of the Pack Library NC Collection.

[HTTPS://PACKLIBRARYNCROOM.COM/2018/12/27/52-WEEKS-52-COMMUNITIES-A-JOURNEY-THROUGH-BUNCOMBE-COUNTY/](https://packlibraryncroom.com/2018/12/27/52-weeks-52-communities-a-journey-through-buncombe-county/)

We were also very excited to have Reggie Clark, who is current Chair of the 2020 Clark reunion, start attending our meetings, as well as a few other Clarks. This is especially exciting news because the Clark Reunion will return to Sandy Mush in 2020. As Vance will tell you, this used to be the social event of the year and the entire community would join in the festivities. Reggie shared this with us:

**Clark Reunion - June 7, 2020 - Returning to our roots and remembering our roots! Invite community to reunion just as in the past.**

It is wonderful to have these families reconnected and continue be invested in our community. At our recent Reynolds family reunion, family members who no longer live here enjoyed touring SMCC and sharing stories with their younger generations, and the children and parents appreciated having a playground to expend some energy! They also shared their appreciation of the Sandy Mush mountain mural, the old school photos in library and the farm history and photos on outdoor signs.

**The current project of the history group is: Big Sandy Mush Veterans' Project.** With almost two years of work and more than 1000 volunteer hours on this project, the effort continues as we discover new resources that help us include more community members. We are currently at approximately 280 community members who will be recognized in this project.

Please continue to help spread the word. These are the parameters we use to guide this project:

- Veterans who have resided in Big Sandy Mush at any point from birth to final resting place. **(This is a recognition, not memorial, so please include those living as well.)**
- Define boundaries of Big Sandy Mush as: Top of Early's Mtn. to top of Beaverdam Mtn. to where Sandy Mush Creek Rd. meets Hwy. 63.

- We include persons who served in the active military, naval, or air service who were discharged or released therefrom under conditions other than dishonorable. We are also including the National Guard and Reserves.

Thanks,  
Terri

## **SMCC Internet Report 19 Aug 19 BOD Meeting**

Submitted by Mark Diaz

Period: 2 to 31 July

OUTAGES: no outages noted

WiFi All SSIDs – Total number of user devices 301. 20 percent decrease.

13 New 238 Returning

Total Data 68.33Gb 54.10Gb received 14.23Gb sent

SSID Use:

Sandy Mush Community Center is 75 percent of all devices

SMCC Wifi is 12 percent

Access Point Monitor:

Total Device Connections on both AP's 420; 400 Returning; 20 New

Percentage of Device Connections: AP1 50%; AP2 50%

Total Data: AP-1 30.96Gb AP-2 37.38Gb



