

Minutes of the East Montpelier Funding Request Committee
November 13, 2019

Present: Committee Members: Lindy Johnson, Jeanne Malachowski, Sue Racanelli, Paul Erlbaum, Darci Coleman-Graves, and Catherine Rader.

Guests: Kirby Dunn for Home Share Now, Susan Crampton for Twin Valley Senior Center, Gianna Petito for Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District, Nick D'Agostino for Rural Community Transportation, Kate Taylor and Cyn Drinkwine for CV DART.

Meeting was called to order at 6:32 p.m.

Discussion about how easy it was to review all the requests online. Thanks to Bruce Johnson for having the process so well organized and ready for the committee.

Election of officers: Sue made a motion to nominate Sandal as Secretary, seconded by Paul, approved unanimously. Chairperson - Paul made a motion to nominate Lindy, Darci seconded, approved unanimously.

Accept minutes: Motion made by Jeana, second by Paul, approved (Darci abstained).

Presentations:

Kirby Dunn: HomeShare Vermont – Home Share Now was absorbed by HomeShare Vermont effective November 1, 2019. HSV is based in South Burlington (30+ years). Legally a different organization with the same mission. Jeana asked about the fee. There is a match fee that varies from \$60-500. No charge to apply, but there is a charge if a match is made. Asked about match success rate. Depends on how you evaluate. About 4 times as many people looking for a match versus homes available. After the two-week trial period there is about a 90% success rate of it lasting.

Susan Crampton: Twin Valley Senior Center – EM largest participation of the six towns. She's here to represent the increase for Meals on Wheels but also talked about classrooms and the expansion plans due to demand. Twenty-six EM residents that take part regularly. Most classes are free.

Nick D'Agostino: Rural Community Transportation -- Public transportation for the counties of the NEK. New route from Morrisville through Hardwick to Barre. There are now two commuter routes (the new route plus the existing St. Johnsbury to Montpelier route) that pass through EM, with transfers available at the EM Park 'n Ride. All the grants RCT receives have to be matched. The matching percentage varies depending on the grant.

Gianna Petito: Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District – handouts provided. Town financial contributions are critical for the local match of many of the grants. She started last year in the summer – too late to participate in the FY2020 funding cycle.

CVDART: Kate Taylor and Cyn Drinkwine -- Main missions: shelters for pets in a natural disaster and being sure that towns are aware the organization is around. It is a requirement if

you want money from FEMA that you have a plan for pet rescue in a disaster. CVDART covers Washington County and a couple of towns in abutting counties. Money is used if there is a disaster for food, medication, crates, etc. but they also do a lot of training. They were set up last year in Barre during an ice storm. Money is obtained through fundraising with a little from other organizations. They work closely with the humane society, but not as a shelter in a disaster.

Following the presentations, the committee discussed all the requests that were submitted. These notes reflect decisions to change a requested amount and possible rationale for those decisions.

New organizations:

1. Central VT Disaster Animal Response Team (CVDART): Request for \$200 - approved
2. HomeShare Vermont (formerly Home Share Now): Request for \$800 - approved
3. Rural Community Transportation (RCT): Request for \$1,000 - approved.

Organizations that the committee decided to grant an amount that differs from what was requested:

1. **Girls/Boyz First Mentoring:** Requested \$400 (they requested \$500 last year and were approved for \$300 which was level from the previous year) - \$300 approved. The number of students being served hasn't increased and there didn't seem to be sufficient information to warrant an increase.
2. **Twin Valley Seniors, Inc.:** Requested \$4500 (\$500 increase from last year). The committee would like this organization removed from the Funding Request Committee and moved to its own article (the same as the Montpelier Senior Activity Center). We also recommend that the article be for \$5000 since this \$4500 request will barely allow them to meet the costs of the Meals on Wheels program that is vital to many residents.
3. **T W Wood Gallery:** Requested \$750 (\$250 increase from last year). Committee decided to level fund at \$500.
4. **VT Center for Independent Living:** Requested \$400 (\$150 increase from last year). Committee decided to increase the funding to \$300 from \$250 last year.
5. **VT Family Network:** Requested \$500 (granted \$100 last year). Last year they requested \$500 and were approved for \$100. This year the committee reviewed the request and decided to approve \$200 based on the services to East Montpelier residents.
6. **Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District:** Requested \$700. This organization has not requested funding for several years. Gianna explained that she had started last year after the funding cycle was ongoing so couldn't get a request in. Her presentation and explanation of the work and grant matches that are required convinced the committee to fund the organization at \$500.

Organizations that are represented on the spreadsheet and not mentioned in these notes were approved for the amount they requested. When calculating the changes described above the total amount the Funding Committee is suggesting for the article is \$21,541.00.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Lindy Johnson