

Poultney Board of Selectmen
Special Meeting
Tuesday, June 1, 2021 – 6:30 pm
Poultney Town Hall

Note: To join this meeting via Zoom, use this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86440287921?pwd=Rlh0YmNockZzREZtZjZGRUJTckdSdz09>

Or join by phone: +1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 864 4028 7921

Passcode: 430875

Agenda

- 1) Adoption of the Agenda

- 2) Public Comments and Concerns:
 - Young At Heart Senior Center – VCDP grant application for equipment

- 3) Adjourn

**Poultney Selectboard
Special Public Hearing
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, June 1, 2021 - 6:30 PM
Poultney Town Hall and Via Zoom**

Those in attendance included: Paul Donaldson, Poultney Town Manager; Jeff King, Selectboard Chairman; Carol Bunce, Selectwoman; Sheryl Porrier, Selectwoman; George Miller, Selectman (Via Zoom) and Terry Williams, Selectman (Via Zoom).

Others in attendance included: Michelle Sancel, Poultney Young-At-Heart (YAH) Senior Center Site Director and Jonas Rosenthal, President of the Board of Directors for the YAH Senior Center; Ernie DeMatties, Volunteer at the Center; Frank Fressie, Volunteer at the Center; Diane Bargiel (Via Zoom); Joan and Richard Thomas; Richard Rupe and Andrew Ohl. Diane Bargiel (Via Zoom); and Sarah Pelkey, the Town Economic Development Coordinator (Via Zoom), Sandra Nikolajews (Via Zoom).

Jeff King called the meeting to order.

Adoption of the Agenda: Carol Bunce made a motion to adopt the Agenda. Sheryl Porrier seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor.

The purpose of the hearing is to obtain the views of the community development, to furnish information concerning the amount of funds available and the range of activities that may be undertaken under this program, the impact to any historic and archaeological resources that may be affected by the proposed project, and to give affected citizens the opportunity to examine the proposed statement of projected funds.

The purpose of the proposal is to apply for \$ 83,478 in VCDP funds which will be used to increase / expand opportunities for fitness and health programs for senior citizens outside of the facility located at 206 Furnace Street, but located on the property, by constructing a pavilion and rubberized walking track.

Jonas Rosenthal distributed copies of the following documents: 1) a description of the CDBG Cares Act Funding for the purpose of supporting Municipal Public Facility and Service programs through grants to municipalities and non-profit

organizations. The amount of funds remaining is approximately \$ 1.5 million; 2) Types of public facility and service projects that can be applied for; 3) A request to the Agency of Commerce and Community Development addressing the proper use of funds by the Town; and 4) The draft application to the ACCD for the Implementation Cares Act Grant.

The grants are reviewed by Agency staff and are accepted on a rolling basis. Decisions are made on a first come first serve basis if the project qualifies for funding. Michelle Sancel, Young-At-Heart Site Director, spoke about how the plan to install a fitness garden in the open park owned by the Town and located on the grounds of the Center came about. Ms. Sancel participated in the recent EPA Recreation Economic Rural Communities Town planning effort (February - May 2021) and stated that it came about during conversations with community members and seniors. She mentioned that the feedback was very responsive given the long period of isolation and inactivity from seniors since last year and the effort to make a safe place to provide positive activity options for seniors to be active once again.

Ms. Sancel provided the Board with letters of support for the project from the following: Pam Zagorski, Executive Director for the Southwestern Council on Aging, Michelle Harmon, a volunteer at the Center; Diane Bargiel a community member; Mary Ann Richards; Doris Rukat, and a petition from Maureen Capman, a Board member of the Center with 63 signatures supporting the proposal.

Ernie DeMatties (84), former Board member at the Center, former Selectboard member and active Volunteer of the Center stated his support for the project. He stated that he goes to the Castleton Center for the exercise equipment in addition going to Rutland for utilizing the adaptive recreation equipment at a park before picking up food from Hannafords and Shaws.

Frank Fressie (93), former Selectboard member and current volunteer at the Center spoke about the positive contributions the Center had on seniors and himself. The entertainment and health initiatives were all important for the health of the community.

Diane Bargiel spoke (via Zoom) about the health benefits of exercise for Seniors. Richard (Dick) Rupe, who is currently in rehab himself, also spoke to the health benefits for such a park. Joan Roberts spoke to the benefits of having such an accessible park and what a great opportunity it would be if we had such a park.

Andrew Ohl, a local resident, asked how much it was going to cost the local taxpayers. He also asked to see any audit of the Center. Rosenthal responded that the project costs were grant eligible. Michelle Sanczal stated that she would get Mr. Ohl a copy of the 2020 audit.

The Board exchanged dialogue with those in attendance and no other comments were received.

Adjournment: Terry Williams made a motion to adjourn the meeting. George Miller seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor. The Chairman closed the hearing.

s/Paul Donaldson, Secretary