

Town Common Light Committee
Belchertown, Massachusetts
May 17, 2018 Minutes
Joint Meeting with the Winter Light Night 2018 Planning Committee



Present: Cheryl Dutton, Andrea Filipkowski, Gloria Fortunato, Matt Grillo
Steve Williams, *ex officio*
Winter Light Night 2018 Planning Committee members: Trista Hevey, Nicole Carlson,
Pam Brodeur, and Jen Turner (Cultural Council)

Absent: Cindy Brown

Meeting called to order 6:00 pm

Introduction

Members introduced themselves and mentioned previous town committee and volunteer service.

Project History

Cheryl Dutton provided a history of the previous Y2K lighting initiative and Steve Williams gave a history of the current lights and the challenges with mounting the display through the years.

It was noted that a bucket truck would be beneficial to the project as the person who used to provide one no longer has the truck available. Steve also mentioned that there will be a new power source for the Old Town Hall in the future.

Gloria Fortunato stated that she has a contact for free electrical work and will give that information to Steve. Gloria also stated that she has some quotes for the lighting refurbishment and is obtaining others. She reported that \$1,023.32 had been raised at the Lose the Change event on May 12, which is just about the amount of one of the quotes obtained.

TCLC Goals

Gloria stated that the immediate goal of the TCLC for 2018 is to refurbish the existing lights with new bulbs and wiring. The next goal would be to have the funds to continue adding to the display and providing for its upkeep in the future.

Winter Light Night 2018 Planning Committee

Jen Turner of the Belchertown Cultural Council talked about the history behind the creation of the November 24, 2018 holiday kick-off event: Winter Light Night 2018.

Andrea Filipkowski of the TCLC asked exactly how the WLN Committee is using “light” for their event, as this key word is what makes the committee names so very similar and potentially

confusing to the public. Event Chair Trista Hevey explained that the memory tree on the common will be lit to officially kick off the holiday season on this first Saturday following Thanksgiving. It appeared that neither committee knew of the other's existence until very recently. Andrea said that the WLN snowflake light logo is very appealing and could certainly represent the TCLC's mission as well.

Both committees talked about the feasibility of changing their committee's name to avoid confusion. It was agreed that both groups would just be more descriptive in future publicity about what the committee is and whenever possible complement each other's respective goals—showing that we are working together on this project. The shared goal is to have the refurbished lights on the common by Thanksgiving.

Steve talked about the history of the memory tree on the common. Trista stated that the Brougham family should be invited to participate in the event.

It was noted that Matt Grillo is a member of both the Cultural Council and the TCLC and this should be beneficial in the long run due to his understanding of both committee's goals and needs. Any conflict of interest would be minimal.

Other ideas discussed were the possibility of having a float at the fair and having a lighting contest for the businesses around the common.

Both committees are open to supporting each other's initiatives which would only result in more success for the town. Each committee is open to having a member attend each other's meetings.

Action Items:

Add WLN volunteers to TCLC contact list.

Matt Grillo to recruit potential "TCLC friends group" through contacts and BCC.

Andrea to share "Celebrate Belchertown" program with WLN members.

Steve will provide site plan of the common to Jen Turner.

Gloria will share additional quotes for refurbishment at the June 12 meeting.

Next TCLC meeting 6/12/2018, 6 pm, Town Hall Auditorium

Next WLN meeting 5/21/18, 6 pm, Family Center

Meeting was adjourned at 7:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Andrea Filipkowski