

Candia Community Profile Steering Committee Meeting

Monday, January 4, 2016
7:00 pm – 8:30 pm
Candia Town Hall
74 High Street
Candia, NH

Meeting Notes

In Attendance:

Susan W. - Conservation Commission, Teacher in
Candia
Susan Y. - Board of Selectman
Donna D. - Welfare Director
Betty S. - Retired Teacher, Heritage Commission
Mark L. - Planning Board/Committee Chair
Emily M. - UNH Graduate Student
Casey H. - UNH-CE
Carmelle J. - Heritage Commission
Sharon C. - UNH-CE (will be part of facilitation team at
April event)

Discuss Sub-committees

- Recap Community Engagement meeting (Mark, Betty, Susan)
 - The group discussed working with local 4th grade class to conduct an art project. 4th graders study government, so this seemed like a good fit.
 - Betty will call the school soon to discuss the project, which will likely entail students creating art from question prompts such as..
 - “What is your favorite place in town?” “What would you like to see in the future for Candia?”
 - The artwork will be displayed at town meeting
 - Involvement in February (Presidential Primary) and March (Town) voting sessions
 - Will have tables set up at both events to market the April event

10 Components of a Vibrant Community

Arts, Culture & Community Vibrancy
Economic Vitality
Education & Lifelong Learning
Healthy Living & Wellness
Housing, Neighborhoods &
Community Spaces
Leadership & Community
Engagement
Natural Resources, Climate & Energy
Recreation
Sense of Community
Utilities, Facilities, Transportation &
Broadband Internet

- The group discussed putting together an oral history-type slideshow that focuses on the older generation of Candia residents that have lived here for a long time. The slideshow would be a compilation of stories/quotations, photographs, etc. that would be on display during voting days.
 - Mark will be looking for volunteers to help man the tables
 - Discussed taking video footage with local business owners and other community leaders that could potentially be turned into one video (which may be too ambitious); the individual clips could also be shared on Facebook/website to promote the event. Carmel offered to help with this, but would be looking for suggestions from the committee on who to contact.
 - The group would like to have a poster similar to the one that the Cooperative Extension team brought in as an example. The poster will be on display at the polls, but can also be available at other spots in town for 2-week periods of time.
 - Casey suggested that the committee continue to think about ways to be creative and think outside the box about how to implement these ideas in ways that engage other parts of the community that don't vote, aren't already involved, etc.
 - Action steps: At the next subcommittee meeting, the group will come up with a final plan for each of these initiatives and then report out.
- Recap Marketing meeting (Sean, Mark, Matt)
 - The Cub Scouts will soon be delivering the annual report, and will include flyers about the event as well with the annual report - this will go out to all town residents. Mark gave out an example of a potential flyer; the committee gave some suggestions/feedback and discussed the possibility of including some branding or a tagline for the event to make it a bit more catchy.
 - Save the Date postcards will be mailed to every household as well.
 - The subcommittee likes the idea of a Facebook page, and Susan will ask her students about potentially being involved in helping to manage the page. The page would serve as a place for residents to go online and learn more about the event, RSVP to attend, etc.
 - Mark will also be sending out press releases and letters to the editor to various local papers. The committee would also like to get a story in the local paper about the event; it was suggested that someone pitch a new story with the results of the early engagement efforts as a way to draw more interest for the April event.
 - Susan Y. will also work on compiling a list of groups/organizations in town that the committee could approach and invite to the April event as a "personal" touch
 - An updated/revisited elevator speech will be helpful for committee members having these conversations
- Food
 - Doesn't need to be anything extravagant, but should be offered as a way to make the event more welcoming. Potlucks don't always work as well, but it may be possible to seek food donations.
 - Dinner on Friday night, plus a light breakfast and lunch on Saturday are recommended, dependent upon the timeframe.
 - Casey and Mark will need to firm up the timeframes for both sessions within the next few weeks.

Volunteers

- We will need to recruit 10 facilitators and 10 scribes to help out at the April event (with back-up volunteers if possible). These volunteers will also need to attend the March 17 facilitator training.
- Casey passed out a document from the University of Maine Cooperative Extension about facilitation; this could help committee members determine who might be a good fit to be a facilitator/scribe

Options for April 15-16

- Babysitters
 - We will be looking for help both Friday and Saturday night. The Girl Scouts (or maybe even the Boy Scouts) were suggested as potential groups to reach out to.

Other Business

- Mark will look into figuring out what the budget for the process is, and if we have any money for food.
- Each subcommittee will meet again before the February meeting.
- Casey said that after the February 1 meeting, the steering committee may want to start meeting more frequently in February/March, depending upon how much needs to get done

Next Community Engagement Subcommittee Meeting: January 11, 4:30PM (Location?)
Next Steering Committee Meeting: February 1, 2016