

**Present:** Gary Edwards, Fred Cook, Kathy Upton, Betsy Fitzgerald, Jennifer Peters, Barbara Tibbetts, Crystal Hitchings, Kathryn Lewis and Dale and Dorothea Crowley

Minutes were approved with corrections to acronyms WCDA, TIF and WCCOG.

Treasurer's report noted we're in better shape than expected, but looming is the pending decision by DART on how it will proceed and what kind of decisions that may be made in regard to its offices and its share of rent payments. It's hard to make decisions while awaiting decisions by other agencies. Will the state reduce, causing DART to move to Portland or Ellsworth? Even so, there has to be some kind of a presence in this area. How will that be handled?

It is likely they will hire WCCOG's services to replace Barbara Maurer but that too involves loose ends and adjustments. Gary will attend an upcoming meeting to discuss our partnership.

President's report: The USDA state technical team is holding a meeting in Bangor. They have the "wherewithal" to schedule it while perfectly aware of our meeting at the same time. They did offer Nate the option of going to Lewiston for a teleconference. As far as they're concerned, RC&D doesn't exist. There is at present no information available about the meeting but minutes should arrive at some time.

Mark Hews' Geofair project has undergone another remake to make it more individualized and offers several levels of participation. It's picked up some major investors.

At one time we signed up for GoFundMe but nothing has been done with it.

Gary will call in regard to getting Julio account funds cleaned up so we can get paid. Nate has revamped the application form and sent it out to area schools. Four of them have expressed interest – good, when considering it's too late for this year. Last year there were 22 applications for the two scholarships. Nearly all students going into college these days are going deep into debt. Jen said combining two or more scholarships might be the way to go, and said the Gracie Fund would be an ideal tie in. A short community service notice on cable TV and all the radio stations would also be a good idea.

Jen said she's discovered the Jebediah Foundation on the Maine Philanthropy Center's website but it doesn't seem to have a website of its own. Its main giving is on the East coast. Typical grants range from \$100 to \$52,000 and could be used to keep us afloat or to get staff.

Fred asked if DART would qualify. Probably only under our auspices the way it's set up, under RCDI funding wherein the program goes to one organization to pay another and asks for a cash match. Gary and Jen will study this to see if we can fund an Executive Director for DownEast.

The walk about of Cutler property is now slated for July 1 at 9 am.

Project updates: Cherryfield Academy is getting a lot of use and is still applying for grants. Meanwhile the upstairs windows are getting renovations or replacement.

The pavers project for sidewalks has been so successful more have been ordered. The museum has been changed and all members are invited to stop in any Saturday between 1 and 4 when it's opened.

Sullivan/Sorrento Historic building: The grant for painting the building didn't come through but volunteers will be painting the garage. There is an immediate need for \$8000 and it is hoped a small private group of supporters will kick in for it. A newsletter goes out to all taxpayers in Sorrento. There has been a ton of neat stuff donated, much of it coming from estates and people will get to examine these articles for themselves. This will be an interactive experience.

Food Alliance: Mark Fulford came and did soil tests and made recommendations. Items were ordered and they have arrived.

Another workshop involved using worms to make compost. 22 people are now composting in new ways and are encouraged to share their knowledge with 2 -5 other people.

New products on the market include dandelion greens and goose tongue greens. The dandelions have been tried in the schools with 60 % saying they would eat them again.

Hoop houses need a workshop but the Cooperative Extension is offering them for \$15 a session and no one is willing to pay that. There are some who've had success and maybe they'll share.

There's a rumor going around that USDA is giving out 10x10 greenhouses. It's probably not true, but there's a lot of people interested in getting one.

Destination Cherryfied: Kathy U. showed the board BB the Blueberry who will be all present, in stores for a scavenger hunt which will award a basket of goodies to the winner, on banners, and in the parade. There will be music both days. Wyman's has kicked in \$1000 for the event. Vendors have not yet expressed much interest, but it's fairly early yet.

Nothing to report on the Happy Grant or Sumner CSO.

The Bold Coast has published the first in a set of maps of the area. This one is of hiking trails in the area. About \$20,000 is left of the funds and that will go toward finishing up the project. The rollout will be in the next few months.

Crystal added that Larry Finegan of Jonesport's Economic Development Council has come with the idea for an Arts Tour and is looking for a fiscal sponsor. The idea is to start the season earlier so the tour would be in spring or early summer. Motion Betsy, second Gary to become the fiscal sponsor for the arts tour. Unanimous.

The Council of Governments has received a grant to work on brownfields and will be looking for nominations. Meanwhile Jonesboro has received one to remove the old Schoppee building and turn it into a park. Also, the Grange hall is available. If RC&D wanted it they could form a grange and take possession. Not a bad idea – grange halls all over are being reclaimed.

Crystal also praised DART's culinary tour and is working on a planning grant with the food buying clubs.

Judy East will present a program on Grow Washington Aroostock County next month.

Meeting adjourned 11:55