



MAD RIVER VALLEY VERMONT

Mad River Valley For Local Opportunities (FLO) Committee

Minutes

December 5, 2018, 2:00 pm EDT
Waitsfield Town Office

FLO Attendees:

Jared Cadwell; Bob Ackland; Peter MacLaren; Don Simonini; Jasmine Bigelow; and Darryl Forrest

Guests: Michael Levine; Bob Cook Waitsfield

Jared called the meeting to order at 2:03PM

Meeting minutes unanimously approved from November 28, 2018

Additions to agenda: Rec District funding from the FLO.

We discussed whether THE FLO should assume the \$45,000 now paid by the Towns for The Rec District as currently proposed in the Case document. We agreed this was a good thing and we should continue with this approach.

We reviewed the details associated with the response to Kari Dolan's letter of the previous week. It was decided that the response should come from the entire FLO subcommittee to be delivered by Darryl to Kari and the Waitsfield SB on December 6th, once final tweaks are completed which will be done today, December 5th.

Bob Ackland mentioned that one of the Warren Selectboard members commented that this FLO proposal is not "transactional" but rather can be "transformational" for the MRV, which Bob suggested was a very positive perspective that we can build on. Also the FLO approach is an "us" tax vs. sending 70% of our property taxes to Montpelier with little control on how our money will be spent.

Noted that both the Warren and Fayston Selectboards have strongly encouraged our subcommittee to continue to gather public feedback to improve the FLO proposal.

Jasmine discussed the proposed "outreach" program we currently have outlined. Jasmine agreed she would be the best one to "quarterback" this effort going forward. She is working from Michael's draft, and with the support of Jim Tabor, Eric Friedman, Ned Farquhar and now also Jack Sharry to flesh it out and prioritize the tasks. We agreed we should secure a new web address for the advocacy phase of this proposal and Jasmine will arrange this.

Michael suggested a handout for the public meetings covering the key elements of the FLO proposals, possibly as a tri-fold. The pre-amble at the start of Darryl's op-ed would be a good starting point for part of this handout.

Jasmine is pursuing Stowe & Killington, Jared has reached out to Woodstock and Bob will try to make contact with Stratton, to get feedback on the apparently positive effect the LOT has had on businesses in their communities.

Bob will work on preparing a compelling summary of the sales tax receipt data that he has compiled from towns that already have a LOT, that in general show an upward trend.

Bob will pursue with Margo Wade a presentation to the Sugarbush employees. We discussed suggested changes to the Power Point presentation. Peter suggested we add back the map of the other LOT towns, to emphasize that we are building on the experience of many other communities.

Darryl has submitted an op-ed to The VR explaining more fully the FLO and correcting inaccurate information that was published in an op-ed last week in the VR. We understand it will be published in the December 6th issue.

Don will repost every 3 days in FPF the Community Outreach Meeting on December 13th at The Community Room of the Waitsfield Meeting House.

Don will reach out to the various groups like the Riders, the Path and others to engage their support for the FLO and encourage their members to come on the 13th.

We agreed to work on a FAQ document to address the questions that keep coming up. Darryl's op-ed and the reply to Kari's letter contain information that can be extracted and used as an excellent starting point. Donald has agreed to lead this work with support from Michael.

The next planned Community Outreach Meeting will be Wednesday January 16th pending availability of a meeting place. Jared will confirm this meeting time/location.

The meeting adjourned at 3:25PM

The FLO subcommittee next meeting scheduled for 2PM December 12, 2018

Submitted by Don Simonini, edits by Peter MacLaren & Jared Cadwell