



## Cambridge Crossroads Meeting Minutes Wednesday August 5, 2009

7:00 - 9:00pm  
The Barn at Boyden Farm, Cambridge

### Attendees:

Peter Ingvaldstad, Dennis Shanley, Phyllis Shanley, Joe Rogers, Mark Schilling, Jim Robinson, Bill McKone, Joel Page, Jay Allen, Heather Sheppard, Dave Schilling, Rick Fletcher

### Agenda:

- 7:00 - 7:10 Call to Order, Introductions, Adopt the Agenda and Announcements.
- 7:10 - 7:20 Town Organizations Report out to others on objectives, projects, requests for assistance and reports on past events.
- Cambridge Rotary, Cambridge Conservation Commission & Cambridge Historical Society
  - Gateway to Nature / Lamoille Valley Mentorship Partnership mentoring training program
  - Greenway / Cambridge Trails Mapping, Maintenance & Building Work Group
- 7:20 - 8:25 Reports and discussion of Work Groups / Committees
- Financial Update & Discussion
    - Should we purchase a projector?
  - Communications Updates & Discussion
    - Cambridge Community News Letter
    - Website & Front Page
  - Economic Development
    - Logo development
  - Community Center
    - Meeting Teenagers need for community
    - Listing of existing facilities that are available for community use
  - Cambridge Trails Work Group
  - Place Based Learning
    - Bringing place based education back to Cambridge Crossroads
- 8:25 - 8:30 Review Calendar - Request for Future Agenda Items and Adjourn

### Meeting Convened:

Call to order at 7:00pm. Peter Ingvaldstad, chair. Phyllis Shanley, minutes.

### External Activities Reports:

#### Conservation Commission

Members Susan Sera and Meg Flemming have resigned. Jen Robins plans to resign soon to go back to Hawaii for her work in archeology. All three of these active community members will be missed. The Conservation Commission is normally slow over the summer and they expect to get new members in the fall.

#### Cambridge Area Rotary

Gearing up for the Fun Run on September 7<sup>th</sup>. When Rotary gets requests for help or funding, they

favor a local project rather than one from outside the Cambridge area. Several members are interested in the Teen Center need voiced to us by Melora Hunt. In conversation Mark Boyden told us about the family events they have held here at the Farm and how easily an event could be scaled for an age group. For example, Lamoille Union High School held a successful Prom last spring in the barn.

### Cambridge Historical Society

The next regular meeting is a “Vermont Music Sampler” with Prof. William Tortolano at the Jeff Church, Aug 12<sup>th</sup>.

The big Auction at the Sweet House will be on Sept 12<sup>th</sup>; viewing at 9am, auction starts at 10am. Auctioneer is Warren Earle. Food provided, bring chairs. CHS is accepting good quality donations for the auction; call Mark Mallett to arrange review and pickup.

### Gateway to Nature / Lamoille Valley Mentorship Partnership

The Tracking Training event is scheduled for Aug 22<sup>nd</sup> in Underhill. The theme is “Coyote Mentoring” based on techniques Peter and others learned last fall in a similar program at Shelburne Farms. The objective is community-based rather than school-based mentoring. The program is planning monthly events that balance work and play. For example, a group might pull invasive knotweed along the River in the morning and then go kayaking in the afternoon.

### Jay Allen proposes...

A conservation biologist is invited to Jay's property for a Forest Bird Habitat Assessment, possibly the second Saturday in September. He will keep us posted.

### Trail Mapping Project

A rough map of existing trails is pretty well together. Step 2 is to develop a good landowner agreement. Peter is using the Catamount Trail agreement as a model, since it seems to fit the purposes of the project. He will be getting some help from a 911 mapper soon. Step 3 will be to produce a final printable map.

Peter hopes to get the Gateway to Nature mentorship program involved in building and maintaining trails for the Greenway and Cambridge Trails.



### Venues

This evening we are meeting in the Barn at Boyden Farm. It was for decades the cow barn with milking parlor below and hay loft above. Mark and Lauri Boyden have transformed the space into a beautiful event space for weddings, reunions, parties and other large affairs.

### Crossroads Work Group Reports:

#### Report: Treasury

We have \$2000 and the IBM equipment-or-money option. Anticipated expenses include the \$20/month charge for Constant Contact where the e-newsletter is published.

Should we buy a digital projector? Consensus is yes; it will be used by CHS, if it is available, and by Crossroads for demos or presentations. A portable projector that any computer can plug into might cost \$500 or so. Mark will research it.

Joel asked that we consider purchasing a large pop-up tent to be shared for community events. He estimates \$1000 cost.

**Report: Cambridge Newsletter**

Mark reports that news is sparse this month, so a couple of people offered last-minute material. No one on the mailing list has un-subscribed. Next month it will include a small survey to see if people who are getting it are also reading it.

Heather raised the question of a paper version. She suggested ideas like asking each business who can make it available to customers (bulletin board or table copy) to print it themselves from an e-mail delivery. She will pursue the possibilities.

**Report: Website & Logo Development**

Phyllis reports that the Crossroads home page is alive and well, but the new Cambridge front page is lagging. Part of the reason is the logo development problems. We have a nice banner we could start with, but we don't have much information collected yet. Her recommendation is to hold off rather than launch it too early.

Dennis will liaise with Barb Thomke at Smuggs for a web content meeting with Peter and ? Phyllis has asked Carrie Cook, who does the Town Report every spring, to start collecting material and design ideas for the Town government website (or sub-site). When we have a better plan and an idea of scope, we can approach the Select Board again with a proposal for funding.

Jim says Susan Dwyer is quite excited about creating a logo for us and will be in town Aug 17-19. He will arrange a meeting with her at Joel's house at 7pm on the 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Report: Communications**

Bill McKone reminded us that there is stimulus funding available for web-based efforts and has asked Peter Welch's office to look into it for us. At this point, Dennis shared an opportunity sent to us by Martha Brown of the Town Planning Commission. It is an invitation to join eVermont, a new community broadband project (a copy accompanies these minutes). Because of time constraints, Dennis filled out the pre-application and got it in just under the wire.

Dennis reminded us that he is on the mythical "Broadband Committee" for the Town, a committee that has never met. He and Peter will approach the Select Board to discuss ways to develop high-speed Internet service for the whole community.

**Report: Place Based Learning in Crossroads**

Phyllis has started a web page with the venues we have held meetings in so far this year (except the school). Bill McKone will help scope out others. Phyllis recently met Douglas Flagg who has bought the gray house by the covered bridge that used to be the Cambridge Junction store and Post Office. His plan is to restore it, but he may need help and encouragement.

Heather promised to find out what she can about the use of PLACE in local schools so we can get reports.

Joel suggested a new Forum, scaled down from the one last November, with an eye to re-energize the community. A year into it, we need to look back at what the first Forum taught us about our community and then to see what has changed and where we should go next. It may be as simple as inviting an interesting speaker to draw interest and to hold lead in activities like Claire Dacey's talks and walks. Brewster River Uplands & Trail mapping? Website? The first Forum was funded by the Vermont Land Trust (contact is Carl Powden) and he wonders if there is still extra money there. Joe will talk to the PLACE program folks about procedure.

**Review Calendar**

This weekend (Aug 8-9) - Old Time Music weekend at the Brewster River Campground. Contact is Bill McKone.

August 15<sup>th</sup> - Arts Walk from 12-4 in Jeff, sponsored by the Arts Council. Crossroads should have a presence that day, perhaps on the porch of the Sweet House.

The next Crossroads meeting will be a celebration from 6:00-9:00pm on Wednesday, September 2 at the Brewster River Campground. Music, pot luck, BBQ and general pats on our own backs. Families and friends welcome. Bring a musician for an acoustic jam.

### **Meeting Adjourned:**

Adjourn at 9:00 pm

### **CAMBRIDGE CROSSROADS OFFICERS:**

<u>Secretary</u>	Phyllis Shanley
<u>Treasurer</u>	Joe Rogers
<u>Vice Chair</u>	Dennis Shanley
<u>Chair</u>	Peter Ingvaldstad

### **CAMBRIDGE CROSSROADS / PLACE Program Goals**

Place-based Landscape Analysis and Community Education..

- To provide a framework for residents to learn more about their town's natural and cultural heritage and share this knowledge.
- To provide local educators with information, resources, and curriculum development support for creating place-based learning opportunities for their students.
- To support an informed and participatory community dialogue that builds upon an integrated interpretation of town landscapes and their transformation through time.
- To showcase and integrate efforts of individuals and organizations involved in local landscape stewardship and interpretation.
- To strengthen the sense of community identity and the connection between past, present and sustainable future.

### **PLACE Program Steps**

- Landscape Analysis - geological, ecological, cultural
- Place-based Learning - incorporating local history, culture, ecology, economics, food into community learning through service learning and partnerships in community and school. People learn better when it's about their place.
- Vision to Action Forum - building on ecological, cultural, geological heritage of Cambridge and building a plan for the future.