

Meeting of the BH Grants Committee - August 22, 2019, 7:30PM, Town Hall

Attending: Tom McLean, Susan Poage, Meera Rao, Lisa DeFrancesco, Sue Pangis, Adam Uanis, Kathy Danneberg, Janice McLean

Regrets: Judi Sills

I Old Business:

Reports from members re: research assignments

- The Union County History grant application was submitted on July 23rd. We will hear if we got it in October.
- Susan completed the “Preserve Union County” grant application from her vacation and has submitted. The application for \$100,000 in matching funds towards restoring and preserving the Littell-Lord farmhouse is basically a 5-page narrative to answer 4 questions. Susan closed by invoking JFK’s moon project speech: “not because they are easy, but because they are hard, because that goal will serve to organize and measure the best of our energies and skills, because that challenge is one that we are willing to accept, one we are unwilling to postpone, and one which we intend to win.” “Littell-Lord can be postponed no longer and we accept the challenge.”
- The grant application is part of an increased commitment from the township towards historical preservation. There will be a new “township historical preservation committee” put together by Stephen Yellin. Many details for the application came from a “historical structures report” funded by the township at a cost of \$20,000.

The Littell-Lord property will be in continuous need of funds even if our applications are successful. We should think outside the box towards fundraising ideas – look for rich people from New Jersey who are interested in historic preservation (Bon Jovi?); look to see if part of the 18 acre property could be sold to developers, perhaps with a stipulation that any development should be externally in keeping with the period; hold fundraising events like a costume Halloween event on the property, with corporate sponsors (there is already a fishing derby held on the property, but this is a PBA event that we wouldn’t want to co-opt).

- The idea of the grants committee (even before our first meeting) was submitted by Liza for a “Municipal Innovation Award” – and we won! We passed around the award for Berkeley Heights volunteer grants committee, given by the Rothman Institute at Farleigh Dickinson.
- Liza compiled a list of the townships existing funding grants – all from Union county – so we know not to request them again (this was an action from the last meeting)

Grants form update

- Kathy has created a Grants Form, on our Google Drive. This is to be used to document a need for money and to engage the grants committee to work on finding money for a project.
- Meera raised the question of how we publicize the committee’s role so that people know to come to the committee and fill out the form to find grants for worthy projects. We decided that we should put the form on the town website with a description of the role and membership of the grants committee. Kathy will engage Liza.

Grants calendar/database share

- Lisa has completed the initial population of the Grants calendar along with an extract of the details of research ideas from Susan’s “grants master list” links:

https://drive.google.com/open?id=1vey5BqG_MI5Bl4C9pCOdk3CNTEQB_yuIYMx41AqPG8Q

- Everyone should take a look and start using the calendar to document research work on grants opportunities. Liza, in particular, needs to review and filter for priority vs township needs.
- Meera suggested that we color code the grant opportunities by priority – grants actively being researched in green, other colors for grants with applications due in coming months vs those that aren’t due until late next year.
- Lisa also created folders for each of the grants being worked on within our Google Drive.

II New Business:

Peppertown Park

We need funds to improve Peppertown park. There is a specific township committee for Peppertown, run by Manny Cueto. It seems that there has already been some fundraising for work on the park (didn't Halls contribute to the drainage a few years ago?) We need to document the specific needs for the park in Kathy's new form.

First Responders

Kathy reported on needs from the Rescue Squad as communicated with Joe Savino. Their primary need is for new radios that can operate on the same band as other first responders. They need 20 radios at \$6k each. Our thought is that they need each squad member to have a radio that they can be called at home. Some questions:

- What do other towns do?
- Can we resell the old radios?
- Does the fire department also need radios? Initial thought was that they don't as they already have multi-band radios, but Liza (via text) said that they do need radios. Nancy Rezulli normally writes grant applications for the fire department and should be consulted.

Adam volunteered to work on researching details of the radio needs.

As a second priority, the rescue squad also needs a generator. Kathy's estimate on this was \$62K, but this seemed excessive when we discussed (how much bigger is the rescue squad than a house?), she will confirm. We need to use our new Grant Form, to document the need for the generator.

Historic Preservation:

Tom volunteered to research additional funding for historical preservation. There are a couple federal grants available that are relevant and listed in our Grant calendar, but these are significant grant efforts requiring training in how to apply. Applications can be submitted in November. Kathy volunteered to help Tom if needed.

Municipal Complex additional:

We want to see if funds are available to support solar panels and/or electric car chargers for the new municipal complex. Neither of these are included in the current plans and budget. Panels on the roof were considered in the original plans but rejected as "too ugly". Another option would be panels on overhead coverage in the parking area. Adam volunteered to research grants/funds for solar panels and electric charging stations with help from Meera.

Alternative Energy/co-generation for Sewage Plant:

Liza's last priority for research (the 3 preceding topics were all from Liza's list) is to look at funding opportunities for alternative energy at the sewage plant. Susan will research and look for help from Judi.

Training for how to do grant applications

Adam is going to a course on how to do grant applications for his police job and was wondering whether the township would be able to put forward funds to send others on the committee to be trained. This probably isn't going to happen, but we also talked about self-training opportunities. Unfortunately, Susan reported that the BH Libraries book's on fundraising are all in storage. But the Library has said they will buy any book identify for training.

There are good online resources at "Foundation center" – (<https://foundationcenter.org>)

Susan distributed two hardcopy documents: "Cultivating Relationships with Grant Makers" and "How to Write Winning Budget Proposals for Grants"

Other funding sources:

The committee should also look into additional funding opportunities beyond grants.

- Can we get funding from banks in town as part of their community development/investment programs? Tom will investigate
- Is go-fund-me an opportunity we should look at? The Historical Society did raise something like \$20,000 through a go-fund-me.

Next Meeting:

Ideas for the next meeting will be solicited in advance of the meeting to an online agenda. Meera will chair the next meeting

The next regularly scheduled meeting is held the 3rd or 4th week of September, with details to be communicated by Meera in the next week after confirming Adam's class schedule. Sue is not available on the 25th or 26th. The 18th is back to school night for Lisa.

ACTIONS summary

- **All**
 - Look at the new Grants Calendar
- **Kathy**
 - Finish the Grants form template
 - Start form for rescue squad requirements

- **Susan**
 - Research funding opportunities for alternative energy/co-generation for the Sewage Plant
- **Adam**
 - Confirm needs for Rescue Squad.
 - See if we can find what other first responders do for radios and funding
 - Research solar panel/electric charge funding for Municipal complex with Meera
- **Tom**
 - Research additional historical preservation funds
 - Look into bank community funding
- **Janice**
 - Confirm Peppertown Park needs and document in Grant Form
- **Meera**
 - Schedule the September meeting after confirming Adam's schedule
 - Help Adam with Municipal Complex funding needs
 - Submit online agenda before the next meeting for people to contribute topics
- **Judi**
 - Help Susan with Sewage Plant funding opportunities
- **Lisa**
 - Update Grant Calendar with coloring for prioritization and to integrate Liza's list of grants to the township
- **Liza**
 - Review and filter the Grant's calendar for township needs