

LCHIP Board of Directors Meeting

Benjamin Kimball House, Capital Center for the Arts, Concord NH
September 17, 2012

MINUTES approved at November 19, 2012 meeting

In Attendance: Board Members/designees: Tracey Boisvert, Doug Cole, Cynthia Copeland, Rep. Dave Hess, Harold Janeway, Rusty McLear, Beth Muzzey, Bill Norton, Charles Royce, Tom Sloan, Paul Susca, Bill Veillette, Rep. Mark Warden

Guests: Jennifer Gornert (DAMF) Rodger Krussman (TPL) Jim O'Brien (TNC), Rep. Judith Spang,

Staff members: Dijit Taylor, Amy Dixon, Jess Charpentier

Absent: Susan Francher, Julia Steed Mawson, Sen. Mandy Merrill, Sen. Russell Prescott

Benjamin Kimball House: This is the first of a new series of meetings in properties benefitting from LCHIP funding and we forgot to explain that LCHIP provided \$157,115 toward a study and restoration of the Benjamin Kimball House between 2003 and 2008.

Public Opinion on Conservation Issues Presentation: Guests from TNC and TPL presented results of a recent survey by the UNH Survey Center which shows that New Hampshire voters strongly support land conservation. LCHIP is not known by name, but when a description is given, most (66%) had a favorable opinion.

Post presentation discussion: Rusty McLear asked, what are the risks of lobbying and marketing? In years past, LCHIP used a public relations firm, but legislature was not happy about spending taxpayer dollars to promote LCHIP. Some feel that there should be no marketing, and no LCHIP money spent on marketing. Educating people on what LCHIP is should be a focus, and talking to legislative leaders is allowable. Radio interviews about recently closed projects have been effective. Would LCHIP benefit from exposure in social media? Twitter? Constant contact?

TPL, TNC, and SPNHF feel that they have been doing outreach to legislature for 10 years and it is not effective. Charlie Royce remembers that LCHIP sponsored legislative events in the past but they were not effective. TPL hopes to do additional studies of the economic benefits generated by LCHIP grants. Judith observes that the previous economic benefit studies have not been convincing to the politicians.

LCHIP needs a fresh approach. Would LCHIP benefit from a new name or a new way of presenting itself? "TPL" has made a conscious effort in recent years to be known as Trust for Public Land. The acronym "LCHIP" doesn't convey what the program does. Other states with land conservation programs have more memorable names: Land for Maine's Future, Green Acres Program in New Jersey. Most state land conservation programs do not also support historical and cultural resources. The name is drawn directly from the enabling legislation, RSA 227-M. If a name change can be made through the By-Laws, the inherent danger in opening the legislation might be avoided. Charlie Royce remembers the difficulty of creating the name when the legislation was initially moving through the legislature.

Rusty offers to discuss the problem with a marketing firm and bring their ideas back to a future board meeting.

Most visitors departed after the discussion.

Approval of Minutes: The minute from the June 18 2012 meeting were presented.

Motion: Harold Janeway moved to accept the minutes from the June 18, 2012 meeting as presented.

Second: Mark Warden

Vote: approved unanimously

By-Laws: Dijit proposed that LCHIP change the wording in Article IV of the bylaws from "the initial registered agent shall be Deborah Turcott Young, Executive Director" by replacing the name Deborah Turcott Young with "the current executive director".

Motion: Bill Veillette moved to accept the change in wording to the bylaws as proposed by Dijit Taylor.

Second – Bill Norton

Vote: approved unanimously

Finances: Dijit presented the June 2012 financial statements. There were no questions or discussion about the finances.

Motion: Bill Norton moved to approve the Finance Report as presented

Second – Charles Royce

Vote: approved unanimously

Audit Update – Dijit reported that everything appears to be coming along well with the recently hired auditor. She is efficient, quick, has useful suggestions, and is significantly less expensive than previous.

Executive Director's Retirement Plan: Employee Handbook provides for a retirement plan for the appointed position, but this has not been put into effect.

Dijit wants help setting up her retirement plan. Bill Norton says we need a labor lawyer or tax attorney (403B for non profits). Cynthia Copeland, Dave Hess and Doug Cole all offer to provide advice, ideas or information.

Projects That Have Closed Since Last Meeting – The Ministry Shop & Carriage House at Canterbury Shaker Village, Colony Wetlands Complex in Chesterfield, Batchelder Farm in Hampton, Stowell Property in Jaffrey and Marlborough, New Durham Town Hall Study, Wilton Library Historical Rooms.

Preview of GR11 Applications and Process: 51 applications were received (40 Historic Resource, 11 Natural Resource), \$2.2 Million in requests ranging from \$1000 to \$150,000. Total cost to LCHIP would be \$2.7 Million. Amount available to distribute is about \$586,000 to distribute. Dijit suggested LCHIP hold a press event to announce grant recipients on about Monday Dec 3rd, 2012. Applications and review materials were distributed to review panelists.

Shattuck Extension Request: The original completion date for the 127 acre, \$113,875 project was May 2012. Monadnock Conservancy requested and was granted an administrative extension until September 4, 2012. Because of a two month delay in the receipt of the appraisal, Monadnock Conservancy is now requesting an extension until the end of the year. The appraisal review by the national office of the NRCS will take 4 weeks or more. Once this appraisal is approved by NRCS or revised as requested, the Monadnock Conservancy is ready to close on this project.

Motion: Harold Janeway moved to allow for an extension until December 31, 2012.

Second: Charlie Royce

Vote: approved unanimously

Proposed Change in Timing of Distribution of Monitoring Incentive

Payments: Dijit raises the idea to change monitoring disbursements from June to January. This would serve the dual purpose of providing the payment closer to the due date of the monitoring report and move complicated check writing out of the close of the fiscal year for the Treasury Department. Both the LCHIP Board and CORD will need to vote on this closer to the time. Board supports the concept of the change.

Signage Update – CORD has also approved taking up to \$8000 from the CCE (from Historic Resource projects that have outlived their term stewardship agreements) to use to pay for a backlog of signage, as approved by the LCHIP Board at the March 2012 meeting and incorporated in to the FY 2013 budget. However, with a possible name change in the offing, new signage will wait for that discussion to unfold.

Exhibit at Local Government Center Annual Conference? Board members did not express any interest in staffing a table, but suggested that LCHIP explore sharing a double table with DHR.

State Budget Update: The current governor is requiring that agencies submit the amount budgeted for FT 2012 and 13 as the “Maintenance Budget” for FY 2014 – 2015. For LCHIP, this is the \$120,000 currently allocated to the Administrative Fund. The “Change Budget” can show the entire “Dedicated Fund” (registry fee income) coming to LCHIP. A budget with a 10% reduction from FY 12 and 13 is also required.

Public Comments: Judith Spang spoke about her continuing interest in LCHIP and pleasure at spending time with the Board again.

Adjourn: There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Jess Charpentier

Approved by:

Rusty McLear, Board Chair