



CCACE Advisory Committee Zoom Meeting Minutes
December 18, 2020

Present: John Ballantine, Ron Bernard, Paula Casey, Claudia Feeney, Marla Iyasere, Eva Mostoufi, Carol Murphree, Margo Parent, Jill Weintraub

1. NOVEMBER MINUTES APPROVED BY Marla Iyasere, Seconded by Carol Murphree

2. BUDGET:

Numbers are looking good. There's about another \$60,000 that hasn't been posted yet. Everything during pandemic times is slower to process.

Jill has submitted paperwork for the electric car \$7,500 grant.

3. REGISTRATION UPDATES:

a. Adult ed

December numbers look good with 165 registrations. Registrations are coming in for the winter, which have been announced by email. Catalogues should be mailed 12/28 and be in homes by 1/4.

Collaborations: We have listed some other communities programs, and they have listed ours... mostly in Adult Ed. Will we continue programs like the Sharon classes after the pandemic? We may be all virtual in the fall. It's a good way to keep costs down and offer a variety of programs that wouldn't otherwise be an option. Perhaps a survey should be sent when we get closer.

John stated that Bentley classes will be hybrid in the fall.

Historically one of the charms of Adult Ed classes is the personal experience. Perhaps in the future we can offer in-person classes and follow-up with break-out groups online.

Village University: Registration opened on Monday. We've received about 80 registrations this week.

Diane Proctor's class is not full yet.

Keith Daniel's lecture class has 60-70 people registered; there is no limit to his online class size.

Carol knows of a woman in Acton who is an expert on Moby Dick and works with the Whaling Museum. She runs classes weaving baskets. Carol thought this might be a possibility for Village University, and will check it out for Fall programming.

Jill sent out a message this morning for potential Spring Village University programs, hopefully with January registrations. These programs don't start until March.

We have received great feedback from Village University students: love the community; very positive experience; lots of topics and a good variety.

Marla asked if there will be a re-design of programming to include more technology due to the pandemic. What will the Fall look like, will we be online? Jill will send out a survey sometime Feb/March to see what the community is interested in: what type of classes work, what should be added, what seasonal classes work... more online classes in the winter vs. in-class options. Jill will also send something out to instructors: How would you like to see your classes, would you like to continue classes online?

b. Drivers ed

We have the new electric vehicle - Nissan Leaf. The mileage is not great in the winter, and with the pandemic we are regulated to keep the windows open. It will take some time to figure out average mileage.

34 students are registered for winter break.

We are adding more driving hours for in-car lessons. Snow always adds some issues to scheduling.

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c. IMSCC

Fall music lessons will continue for a few more weeks.

Registrations for music lessons are behind. We have received some inquiries from 4th and 5th graders for winter lessons.

All programs will continue to be virtual.

4. CAN WE TALK FY22 PLANNING:

Jill set up a link

(https://docs.google.com/document/d/1aRf4EWXpoKeEsYqXzK6h2HF_wWgdJ2ji9wUQw7CviMc/edit?usp=sharing) following our November meeting for us to share ideas.

Let's continue to use it as our conversation continues.

Our political situation is shattering so many of our stereotypes.

Marla mentioned a NY Times piece where scientists and engineers are embracing conspiracy theories.

How do we get people to think and talk about polarization, ie. Proud Boys.

Should we approach this from an historical perspective.... jobs disappearing, decline of status and respect. It's not economic, it's more.

Should we bring in a contemporary psychologist? How do we define ourselves?

Perhaps we should go outside our comfort zone and read different viewpoints; watch PBS Newshour and Fox News,

access different news outlets to help see a broader view?

What are our fundamental American values, how can we put this in a topic? Do we then have subtopics?

We are not a political action group. We are trying to gain a skillset to learn to compromise and look at various viewpoints, not take a political position.

What is the topic, what are the tools we are giving people? Do we get outside of the Concord bubble, and have it broader in scope?

Or do we keep this local with experts?

How do we find a way to interact with one another and come together with opposing views - then possibly have breakout groups. Media could be a sub-topic.

"FINDING COMMON GROUND ON DIVISIVE ISSUES"

Standpoint theory: Where does your perspective come from.... an approach in communication, how your viewpoints are shaped given your age, status and how to divest us of our ways of thinking?

Carol recommended the book "Strangers in our own Land"

How much does age play in our viewpoints?

IE: sustainability... do we have a different approach depending on our age? Our kids understand that plastic recycled in our town isn't really being recycled. Age groups look at things differently.

Should we read a book before the program?

Next meeting 1/15/21