

Capacity Building Group

Minutes for December 12 Meeting

Present--Fred Dunnington, John Barstow, Spence Putnam, Andrea Murray, Amy Sheldon, Fred Kenney, Lyn Coale, Claire Tebbs, Steve Maier, Jeremy Gildrien, Greg Dennis

How Should We Define Greater Middlebury?

The original application to VCRD was made through and by the Town of Middlebury with the approval of the selectboard. We will need to connect with the select boards of the other participating towns if we need any official support or endorsement. For now the mission is more important than defining the geographic area. The mission statement should make it clear that other towns will be permitted to opt in if they wish.

Ground Rules

Productive and Fun
Mutual Respect, Honesty and openness among ourselves
Positive work/volunteer environment
Watch your air time. Step up, step back
Maintain forward momentum, efficient, well facilitated meetings
Follow through. Communicate if you can't carry out a task
Problem solve as a group
Keep it light hearted. Joyful
Mission Driven
Clearly Defined goals, objectives
Develop a strategy for on-going communication
Food when appropriate
Deepen friendships

Why are you a part of this task force?

--This group is vital to success of all other task forces
--I like helping build organizations on issues that matter a lot
--Can't do this with only a bunch of volunteers
--Want to see something happen
--excited to work with an alternative group to local government--potential for creative thinking, more dynamic model to get things done.
--Vital communities provides a point of light for the entire community. Create something that is not here.
--Provides cohesion for what we are doing.
--Laying the groundwork for what's going to happen
--looking at the big picture, bringing resources together

Purpose Statement

- umbrella task force with the charge of creating a structure/staff to enable the other groups' goals
- Help the other three groups identify resources to achieve their goals
- inventory what is going on already, things aligned with our goals
- Where are the holes, who are the strategic partners?
- Perform Research, Do Analysis
- We are the glue holding the rest together.
- We need to check in with what the other groups are doing. Don't overlap
- We are the staff now--working to figure out how to fund and develop real staff
- Our group gradually replaces the function of VCRD staff support
- To coordinate and advance local initiatives toward sustainability and economic adaptation to climate change.

Skills Needed for the Next Steps

- organizational development
- look for resources, grant writing
- cheerleading/marketing/outreach
- Communication, IT, Social Media
- governance
- economic cluster analysis
- Climate scientists
- College connection/engagement

Next Steps

- Steering committee meeting on January 8
- Set up a liaison with each of the other groups. Jeremy with Energy Group, Lyn with Agriculture. Claire will contact Molly Costanza Robinson about being the liaison with transportation.
- Spence will share Jon's email
- Leadership team will meet after January steering committee meeting to plan our next meeting (scheduled for January 15, 7:00 pm, Vermont Integrated Architecture
Circulate minutes
Greg will form Google Group by X'mas
Everyone look for contacts with college