

Select Board Sidelines

February 10, 2021

Submitted by Bill Lombardi

Aging in Place Union – We are bringing a community St. Patrick’s Day luncheon to our 55+ community on Thursday, March 18th at 11:30 am and is free of charge. Due to COVID-19, a delicious meal can be safely picked up curbside at the William L. Pullen Municipal Building Meeting Room (at the back of the Union Town Office). Please drive through behind the building, we will be there to greet you.

On the menu: Corned Beef, Cabbage, Carrots, Potato, Rolls, Cookies, and Bottled Water. If you are unable to do curbside pickup, delivery will be available so please specify *delivery* when you RSVP.

Please RSVP to the Union Town Office by Thursday, March 4, 2021. Call 785-3658 or email townmanager@union.maine.gov.

This invitation is from all of the committee members! See committee info at: [Aging in Place in Union - Union, ME \(maine.gov\)](http://union.maine.gov/aging-in-place)

TCC Committee – I’m certain that this has happened to all of us, you attempt to do something with the best of intentions, and it doesn’t come out the way you envisioned. It is a terrific problem that we had more applicants than positions for the Future of the Thompson Community Center Committee. It was great to see the community interest. I hope that we have more new people that want to become involved. If the Board had more foresight, we might have come up with a better plan to address the multiple statements of interest. It fell upon our Chair to handle this issue. Given the circumstances, with some consternation, a committee was formed. All that submitted a “Statement of Interest” were invited to participate in the meetings of this committee. It is with sadness and disappointment; I report that some were unhappy with the results and have declined to participate.

I hope that we can all get past our ill feelings and be able to do what is best for the town of Union. It is expected that this committee will be able to proceed with fairness and kindness. All meetings will be posted on the Town Website under the Calendar tab. All are welcome to participate.

Submitted by Martha Johnston-Nash

TCC Committee - At the January 19th meeting of the SB, we voted to create a committee of seven to see what can be done to open communication with the Thompson Community Center Association (TCCA) and see if we can help find ways to help facilitate funding for much needed maintenance of the facility. To that end, we asked for statement of interest forms and received nine. We are very fortunate in that many people here are interested in the TCC and its ties with the community.

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The informal Committee for the Future of the TCC (CFTCC), which had been working for a couple of years to bring together and receive feedback from the citizens of Union, had done just that with the community meeting; and we had just started to facilitate meetings between the Select Board and the TCCA. Then COVID hit and meetings were discontinued. A few months later at elections, the Select Board was changed.

When Adam Fuller brought up the proposal for the CFTCC to proceed as a town committee, we agreed it should be official and work under the town guidelines. I asked the members to submit interest forms if they wanted to continue and explained it would be open to anyone else in town who wanted to participate. I would be a member of the new CFTCC and we would be selecting six others. Two of the previous members, Sharon Caron and Erik Amundsen, submitted forms. I also specifically asked Rebekah Smith to consider it, since she was so good at being our facilitator for the joint meeting and her background experience would be valuable. Former selectmen Greg Grotton and Jim Justice had submitted forms long before this was brought before the board, in the chance that it would become official. Both had previously been directors of the TCCA. Abe Knight, who had also been a director and major volunteer as well as a former selectman, applied. Lorain Francis, who works with the Come Spring Food Pantry, also applied. Two others submitted forms, Tim Schau and Paul Raudonat, both new to town committee work but willing to look at the work with fresh eyes and each with their own areas of expertise.

The process of appointment was not perfect, and we regret being unprepared. We all did have the forms beforehand, however, and I'm not sure it would have changed the result even if we had used a different procedure. Chairman Shepard brought up the names individually in no particular order. I asked for two applicants to be brought forward, Sharon Caron who was on the CFTCC and has extensive experience managing the facilities, and Rebekah Smith. Both were accepted unanimously. The others were appointed based on their interest, background, and what we saw as their ability to bring positive efforts to the group. Those other four were Amundsen, Francis, Justice, and Raudonat. Since then, Justice has withdrawn from the committee. Although the remaining three were not appointed as voting members, we asked them to participate and share their thoughts and experiences with the committee in discussions. Everyone has something to share, and we want to hear from them all, as well as anyone else. As soon as we hear back from everyone, we'll be scheduling a meeting which will be posted on the calendar with a link. Please join us.