

Bethel Town Meeting Committee Minutes of February 21, 2019 meeting

Present: Pam Brown, Rick Benson, Victoria Weber and Rebecca Stone.

Rick called the meeting to order at 3:36pm.

Town Meeting preparations

Greg will request the microphone system for the meeting from Seth Stoddard. We will not try to have a delivered microphone, but if someone cannot come to one of the mics, we will get one to them.

Pies. Laura Rubenis cannot organize pies this year. Jean Burnham will arrange them once they are brought in, but we have no one to solicit and coordinate pies. Pam will fill in as much as she can. Rick will solicit pies in the *Herald* and Front Porch Forum, Rebecca on Facebook. Pam will make the coffee.

Rick will speak about the ***Bethel Operator's Manual*** during his remarks introducing the exhibits, etc.

Bethel Operator's Manual

We had all had the opportunity to review the 90 page document this past week. We spent time giving our corrections to Rebecca and discussing which paragraphs to drop as the document has grown over long. That said, it contains a wealth of information that will allow any new resident to hit the ground running in getting involved in the community and the landscape here.

We discussed having an electronic version on the Web, and an edited paper copy to give to each household. Generally, we are not in favor of this approach. Keeping the electronic version updated, having a secure place for it to be located and someone to oversee it were all concerns.

We will condense it as much as possible, see what the printing costs will be and perhaps raise some funds through a grassroots grant (Rebecca is checking on whether they do fund publications), and/or a small crowdsourcing campaign.

Numbers of interest: We have \$4,100 in our bank account for the Manual. Several hundred will be needed for the map.

The latest Town Report was 96 pages long, almost all black and white, and cost \$3,700 for 980 copies, or \$3.78 each. There are presently about 980 households in Bethel and 1,400 registered voters. We would want to print more copies of the Manual to give out to new residents for several years to come.

Copyright: Rebecca will draft a statement saying the text is free to anyone to use, but the photos are not as they belong to their photographers. Rick will phone Susan Clark of Middlesex to make sure that it is okay to say this for the content we got from their Operator's manual.

Authoritativeness: We discussed how things change, the fact that there is often the need to deal with both the town and the state, and situations are too complex to be able to make snap judgments about them. So instead of trying to tell people when they need a permit or a fishing license, we will make a prominent disclaimer statement (and theme) that "The best advice is to always check with the town".

We will have an exhibit of the Manual with posters by Victoria. We will have printed up 2, plus, copies and will have them for folks to leaf through, as well as a tablet for comments. We will also have a signup so that we can let people know as soon as it is ready to be reviewed by citizens.

The meeting adjourned at 5:20.
We did NOT set a new date for the next meeting yet.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Victoria Weber, Secretary, February 22, 2019.