VRSC Member Meeting
Virtual – Zoom
2/2/21
2:00-3:00 pm

Minutes

Welcome & Introductions – Meet the Members

In attendance: Becky Arbella, Frank Lenti, Cathie Cassano, Andrea Dobras, Carol Keefe, Kimberly Bishop, Edna Bartlett, Tina Wilbur, Lorelei Morrissette, Mike Ohler, Hammy Gale, Megan Tedder

Discussed the upcoming training – Supporting Post-Traumatic Growth in the Face of Grief and Loss with Dr. Cassie Yackley sponsored by Rutland Housing Authority. **Please register at** [**www.vrsc.org**](http://www.vrsc.org)**.**

Voted on Slate of Officers – Frank made the motion to approve the slate of officers, Carol seconded. All in favor.

* + President – Becky Arbella
	+ Vice President – Frank Lenti
	+ Treasurer – Cathie Cassano
	+ Clerk – Susan Cotrell

Andrea talked about the upcoming NERSC Conference which will be virtual this year at a reduced rate of $299 with 13 hours of training. The workshops/keynotes are in the morning, half-day to avoid virtual fatigue. There are options sprinkled throughout the day for wellness classes and entertainment. We were supposed to be in Vermont this year, so we are trying to bring VT elements in wherever we can. There will be a donation drive to support COTS, photos and videos from VT. If you like to take photos and want to submit any, please put your name on them and email them to andrea@nerscinc.org by March 15th. You can register for the conference and learn about the available workshops, keynotes, entertainment and wellness opportunities at [www.nerscinc.org](http://www.nerscinc.org).

 Becky discussed the state basket that VRSC puts together each year for NERSC and there were ideas around doing a single gift card or having Vermont Country Store put something together and mail it out to the winner once chosen. The budget has been increased to $200 for this. Any additional ideas should be sent to becky.arbella@shireshousing.org.

VRSC normally sponsors a scholarship for NERSC each year at the $450 level and has done so in Doug Hemming’s memory the last few years. This year, because it is virtual and carries the theme of Vermont, VRSC discussed sponsoring two scholarships – one in Doug’s name and one in Susan Ainsworth-Daniels. We can put together a photo of each of them to be used. Cathie made the motion to sponsor two scholarships, Kim seconded. All in favor.

Cathie reviewed the proposed budget for fiscal year October 1, 2020-Sept 30, 2021. She stated that we already received many sponsorship checks - $1,500 from VHMA, $1,000 from VHFA ($200 dues, $800 for sponsorship), $250 from Rutland Housing Authority to sponsor our March training. She pointed out that most of the membership dues have not yet been received, so if you haven’t sent yours in, please do so. [Here is a link to the membership form.](https://70d24442-0883-449a-ac91-97bdd2a2232a.filesusr.com/ugd/5c983f_9e212a153afb474a8e8b4ec16342d490.pdf)
Two adjustments were made to the proposed budget – increased the sponsorship and state basket line items. Becky made a motion to approved the revised budget, Frank seconded. All in favor.

Group Discussion: We finished the meeting with a group discussion on how VRSC could be helpful to our members. We talked about training topics that people would like to see. Mike suggested Ron Stankevich – Stigma, Addiction & Shame, Kim suggested a Recycling Composting training, and Cathie suggested a topic on How to Transition Back to Normal/What Does the New Normal Look Like. These topics will be considered for the Fall. We talked about getting together over the summer in a state park to have an outdoor meeting where we can all bring our own lunches, play games, go for a hike, etc. Frank and Becky were were going to look into ideas around Randolph/White River Junction. Kim mentioned Lake Morey and Megan suggested Billings Farm in Woodstock. The plan will be to build hype by discussing in prior to the start of our training in March and then send out a doodle poll to get the date that works for the majority.

Motion to Adjourn at 2:53 made by Becky, seconded by Kim. All in favor.