

VOCA FALL MEETING MINUTES

10/1/2016 Middlebury, Vermont

President Tom Giffin brought the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m. at the Middlebury VFW #7823

President's Report:

- Flood Brook school is supporting a grant for young students to work in cemeteries
- Discussion of ongoing projects conducted by the Comcast volunteer crew in Rutland Co.
- In the news, at Burlington Catholic Cemetery over 1000 needles found indicating the cemetery is used by drug addicts. Pres. Giffin involved with publicizing it. The Police are to patrol there more.

Treasurers Report: see attached

- Moved and seconded to accept report. Passed without discussion.

Secretary Report:

- No report was available due to computer issues. Report will be read at spring meeting
- The secretary position is open

Grant Administrator's Report: Dianne Leary see attached

- 7 grants awarded in 2016; for four work is done and 3 not yet complete.
- 1 grant for 2015 carried over – Middletown Springs. The work was done pro bono, and the money remains available for another town.
- \$750.00 is current maximum amount per grant. Total amount not to exceed \$3000.00

Old Business:

- Membership Director, Barry Trutor is doing a great job with the membership
- Need to recruit new members
- The newsletter has been sent to towns, historical societies, and museums per the Arthur and Francis Hyde donation

Membership Report: Barry Trutor see attached

- Motion passed to send postcard to lapsed membership to pay dues in order to continue receiving newsletter. Membership list to be updated before postcard to be mailed.
- Member Carolyn Adams volunteered to work with Barry to check membership list.

New Business

- 2017 VT legislature – fund for vandalized cemeteries is still in committee. Proposal is a \$5.00 fee be attached to each Vermont death to create a fund for cemetery repairs when a cemetery is vandalized. Motion to pursue promotion of this bill passed without discussion

- At Fall Executive Board meeting the officers voted to keep the grant amount the same for 2017. i.e. \$3000.00 maximum per year & \$750.00 max per. Motion put forward to approve. Grant motion carried with one nay

Discussion regarding increasing the amount of the grants. Decision to keep it at above stated amounts for 2017

- Election of Officers:
 - current slate of officers are willing to continue on in their positions
 - President – Tom Giffin
 - Vice President – Dianne Leary
 - Treasurer - Chris Book
 - Assistant Treasurer – Whit Mowry
 - Grants Administrator – Dianne Leary
 - Membership Director – Barry Trutor

Motion to re-elect current slate of officers carried without discussion.

- Spring meeting – Charles Marchant investigating locations possibly Bennington or Searsburg.
- VOCA member, Peggy Jenks advised that she has taken 5 notebooks to the Rutland Historical Society regarding historic cemetery stone engravers which she has collected and researched over 40 years. She has determined that she cannot publish this information so it will be preserved at the RHS.

Other Business:

- Membership cards have been requested. Discussion that those who request them may pick them up at the meeting or they may send an SASE to receive one. President Giffin will provide a card template.
- Raffle

Motion to adjourn passed at 11:40 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Adams, Secretary pro-temp.