

“Building Community Group”

Town Center Projects Completion Summary & Acknowledgements

Overview

The projects – tile bulletin board project, town benches, community harvest supper, town history presentations, and a new town sign - were initiated in March 2018 by the Stamford “Building Community Group” (SBCG). The SBCG was formed after a Stamford All Board Meeting and a brief community survey showing interest in such projects for the town going forward in the 21st century . There were many meetings and concept/visual presentations to the Selectboard, other town governing boards, and at Town Meetings (2018 thru 2020+).

All SBCG meetings were open to the public. Over the 5+ yrs., attendance varied widely with often 15 different people present. Pat Sullivan chaired the group. All interests and suggestions were welcomed in the spirit of fostering community values and experiences; volunteer participation was encouraged. Project decisions were made at the time of meetings and by those in attendance.

With the installation of the new town sign (Oct. 2022) the Stamford Center Projects draws to a close (with exception of replacing the north bench tree which did not survive the 2020 winter). A previously proposed “Gathering Place” is not anticipated at this time.

The projects were supported and/or grant funded via – The Ben and Jerry’s Foundation, The Vermont Community Foundation, The Walmart Foundation, The Stamford Community Library, Stamford Seed Savers Organization, and anonymous donations.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

A BIG THANK YOU to the following who donated their talents, time, and/or materials, to the Stamford Vermont Town Center Projects: “Building Community” ...

Mark Potvin (lumber), Gene St. Pierre and April Sanders (construction of benches), Steve Therrien (Contractor, tile bulletin boards), Chad Degrenier (sign installation), Roger Bombardier + his grandson Oliver (tile frames), Gail and Phil Sellers (River Hill Pottery @ The Eclipse Mill, tile fabrication), Jon Bohl (gravel), the “tech desks” @ RK Miles and the Bennington Tile Works, and the sign lettering designed and fabricated @ McCann Tech High School.

Many, many town citizens – children and adults- participated in, and contributed their artistic talents and community knowledge to the SBCG projects, with suggestions/input re: the town sign and toward the tile project. The March 2019 “Student – Community Partners present Stamford History” was informative and entertaining. The program was supported by the Stamford Library and Stamford School with town “elders” being interviewed by Stamford

students. The 2019 “Harvest Supper” was another supported and well- attended community event. A special THANK YOU to All.

Finally...All projects benefited with support from the town/school governing boards and with clerical/logistical support from the town office. Thank You.

(My heart felt apologies to any person I’ve overlooked...it’s been a while –start to finish).

Respectfully Submitted for the SBCG: Victoria Jefferies

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