

**MINUTES PUBLIC HEARING
HEARTBEET VCDP GRANT APPLICATION
5:45 P.M. THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2024
HARDWICK MEMORIAL BUILDING
3RD FLOOR MEETING ROOM AND VIA ZOOM**

Select Board

Eric Remick, Chair
Ceilidh Galloway-Kane
Shari Cornish
Tim Ricciardello
Danny Hale

Others Present

David Upson, Town Manager
Casey Rowell, Business Manager
Judith Jackson
George McWilliam
Suzannah Dickinson

Others Present

Martha Dickinson
Annie Jackson
Jim Nudd
Tracy Martin

Public Hearing

5:45 P.M. Eric Remick, Select Board Chair, called the Public Hearing to order.

5:45 P.M. Item #1 Select Board Chair to give reason for the hearing

Eric said that Heartbeet Lifesharing is applying for a Vermont Community Development Program (VCDP) Implementation Grant in which the Town would be the fiscal agent. A public hearing is required to give the community an opportunity to learn about it and ask questions.

5:41 P.M. Item #2 Representatives from Heartbeet Lifesharing to summarize their plans for a residence that will house 3 individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities

George McWilliam, Executive Director of Heartbeet Lifesharing, was present to give background on the organization and their plans. Heartbeet currently supports fourteen adults with development and intellectual disabilities. They have a farm based community, including cows, pigs, and chickens.

They currently have four residences, and they are looking to add a fifth. This grant will enable them to add three more residents and hire staff to support those residents.

5:47 P.M. Communication/Questions from the Audience

Ceilidh asked if their current situation is at max capacity. Ultimately, yes. They are only licensed for a certain number of residents. They need additional space in order to take on three more people.

Ceilidh asked about the VCDP grant administration fee in the project budget. George explained that VCDP encouraged them to build in about 8% which could be paid to whomever administers the grant, which may end up being the Town. The Town would be paid to administer the grant.

Judith Jackson shared that her daughter Annie has lived at Heartbeet since 2010. She thanked the road crew for keeping Town Farm Rd. in great condition so she could easily visit her daughter or take her on outings. Annie talked about the importance of the relationships and connections that she has forged while at Heartbeet.

George commented that there are several area businesses that employ some of the Heartbeet residents.

The Board thanked everyone from Heartbeet for coming to talk about their plans.

5:55 P.M. With no further comments from anyone, Select Board Chair, Eric Remick, adjourned the Public Hearing.

Minutes taken by: _____
Casey Rowell, Business Manager

Minutes approved by: _____
Eric Remick, Select Board Chair