

TOWN OF HOPKINTON
HUMAN SERVICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
January 8, 2019 – 4:30 pm
TOWN HALL

Present: Marilyn Bresaw, Gordon Crouch, Allita Paine, Dawn Berry, and Nan McNicholas

Absent: Luciele Gaskill

The committee approved the November 13, 2018 Minutes

Old Business

- **Updates from Marilyn Bresaw about Thanksgiving and Christmas**
 - Thanksgiving: Around 60 families were given food baskets
 - Christmas: 77 families were given gifts and food items, and this included 67 children. Marilyn shared that 77 containers of maple syrup were donated to each family by a gentleman named Chris Kimball. He grew up in Hopkinton but lives in Webster. In addition, Neola Crathern donated mittens for all of the children (except for older boys who may not be interested). Nan commented that there was a good mix of gift cards and gifts as far as the list given to First Church. Marilyn feels she gets lots of support for all of her programs.
- **Updates about Expenditures/Budget to Date**

Marilyn reported that she went over budget a couple hundred dollars on her town budget. The new budget is still in process.

New Business

- **Spring Event**
 - Program Theme: The theme is “assistance for people to remain at home through the aging process.” The Community Room at the Library has been reserved for Saturday, April 6.
 - Presenters: Allita contacted ATECH Services before Christmas, but she learned that their agency has been dissolved. She was directed to contact Medicaid, which will be providing some of the ATECH services. They will get back to Allita as they figure things out in the wake of this recent development.

Allita also looked into Assistive Technology New Hampshire (ATinNH), which is run out of the Institute on Disability at UNH. She was given the names of Stacy Driscoll and Melissa Mandrell. Melissa is the co-director of the Hopkinton Band, so Allita will reach out to her.

Marilyn will reach out to Wayne Blanchard, who is a Long Term Care Counselor at ServiceLink of Merrimack County.

Nan will talk with Kathy Ashton, who has experience assisting people with downsizing and organizational planning. There was talk about possibly bringing in a presenter on reverse mortgages, which can help some people stay in their home. There was also talk about inviting Mary Reidy, who may be knowledgeable of medical resources that can help people remain at home.

Tim Wildman, a UCC minister and counselor with knowledge of gerontology, was suggested by Dawn as a possible resource to address the emotions and spirituality of aging, as well as how to build community when you're not as mobile in your home. He might possibly be an introductory speaker.

It was also suggested that it might be nice to have Kay Carr from Dial-a-Ride and Paula Simpkins from the Senior Center both be represented.

We will all give thought to people we might know who have successfully navigated staying at home, who could possibly share their experience. Also, maybe a Park Avenue resident can share about their experience of getting into that community and living there.

When we get information about a possible speaker, we should email it to the group. We thought each presenter/representative could give a brief introduction at the beginning, and then people can mill around and speak with them informally.

- Publicity: We will start planning publicity at our Feb. 5 meeting. We also thought Donna Dunlop might be able to help with publicity.

Other:

- **Human Services Brochure**

Marilyn is updating the Human Services brochure. In particular, she will give copies to the Fire Chief, Jeff Yale

Next Meeting February 5 at 4:30 PM. (Lucy indicated she will be absent in January and February)

Meeting adjourned at 5:36 PM

Submitted by:
Gordon Crouch
Committee Secretary
January 20, 2019