

TOWN OF HOPKINTON
HUMAN SERVICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

January 9, 2018

TOWN HALL

Present: Marilyn Bresaw, Karen Dufault, and Allita Paine

Absent: Gordon Crouch, Luciele Gaskill, and Betsy Wilder

The minutes of the meeting of November 7, 2017 were not available for approval.

Old Business:

Marilyn presented updates on her activities as follows:

- Thanksgiving – 67 households received food for Thanksgiving dinners, with donations coming from town churches and the school, the latter providing fresh fruits and vegetables.
- Medicare – 40 individuals were given assistance in selecting an option/signing up for Medicare.
- Operation Christmas – 86 households including 66 children and 33 seniors received gifts. There were enough donations from a number of sources. The Operation went well; Marilyn will remember next year to tell new donors not to wrap gifts and to let her know if they are unable to find the items that the recipients have asked for. The food pantry received a lot of food over the holidays so that people in need had food for Christmas dinners and the pantry remains well-stocked for the time being.
- Fuel Assistance – Contoocook Carry has given the town \$2,000 to be used for fuel assistance; the Select Board sent a thank-you for this donation. Additional private donations have been received which will augment town funding. Six families requested fuel assistance on the first 2 days of 2018.
- Potato Project – The potatoes came in on schedule for Thanksgiving, arriving from Maine at the trucking facility on Maple Street. Trucks from a number of area food pantries were there to pick up their allocations. (This project started a number of years ago as an Eagle Scout project carried out through the Methodist Church whereby potatoes remaining in the ground after the harvest by machine are gathered by hand and distributed for use by needy families.)
- Thank you letter in the Concord Monitor – Marilyn submitted a detailed letter of thanks to the community of Hopkinton for all that individuals, organizations, and businesses have so generously done to provide for townspeople needing assistance during 2017; this letter was published in full.

New Business:

1. Requests for Support: Both CASA and the Community Action Program (of Belknap-Merrimack Counties, Inc.) have requested funding from the Town of Hopkinton. Marilyn recommends that the Human Service Advisory Committee write a letter of support for the CAP request to the Hopkinton Select Board. CAP (through the Warner Area Center) provides a detailed report each year of the number of Hopkinton residents served and the dollar amount involved; last year that figure was \$75,964.19 (using federal, state, and local funds). The request is for only \$5,900! Those present agreed that a letter of support should be written; Allita agreed to draft this letter. Because CASA is not forthcoming with data reports of service to Hopkinton and the extent of that service is unknown, Committee members decided not to write in support of the request from CASA.
2. Human Service budget request to the town: Marilyn submitted a budget request for \$55,000 which has been pared to \$53,000 by the Select Board. This request now goes to the Budget Committee. Last year's expenditure was \$45,000 (bear in mind that last year's winter was mild). Marilyn noted that the annual expenditure of the Human Service Department has been decreasing over the past ten years and it appears that lower income families have been moving out and higher income families moving in.
3. Hopkinton Human Services Department 2017 Annual Report: Marilyn shared a copy of her 2017 Annual Report with Committee members.
4. Polkadots Event Proceeds for Got Lunch Program: Sue Yonkers, owner of Polkadots, has offered to do a T-shirt design competition for children with the proceeds (excluding cost of the T-shirts) going to a charitable program in Hopkinton. Marilyn has selected the Got Lunch Program.
5. Work Camp Program: WorkcampNE comes to Hopkinton periodically and will be here the first week of July, 2018. As an alternative to a sports camp, parents pay to have a son/daughter attend this camp, stay at Hopkinton High School, and do work projects to help people in the community under the guidance of professionally skilled adults. There is a religious overtone to this program with gatherings of the participants for discussion and prayer at the end of each day. **As members of the Human Services Advisory Committee, we can help identify people with needs for home maintenance, painting, repairs, ramps, etc.** Out of the projects identified, selections will be made as early as April so that WorkcampNE staff can do appropriate planning and ordering of materials.
6. Human Services Advisory Committee Spring Event: Ideas for an event of interest to the community were discussed. Narrowing our previous idea to funeral and burial options may be a possibility. Presentations might include the range of funeral and burial services (and costs) available, cremation options, and burial services available to Veterans and their spouses. This is further thought and discussion at the February meeting.

The next meeting of the Human Services Advisory Committee will be on Tuesday, February 6, 2018 at 3:30 pm.

There being no additional business, the meeting adjourned at 4:38 pm.

Submitted by:

Allita Paine
Acting Secretary

As corrected/accepted at the meeting of February 6, 2018