

TOWN OF HOPKINTON
HUMAN SERVICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
November 13, 2018 – 4:30 pm
TOWN HALL

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

The committee approved the September 4, 2018 Minutes

Old Business

- **Updates from Marilyn Bresaw about services to town this fall**

- Budget: Marilyn presented the budget to the Select Board on Nov. 5. She requested \$50,000, which is the same amount as this current year. There were no questions put forward by the Select Board. She let them know that the existence of the fuel assistance fund and the other general fund, which are all donations, is the reason she can keep the budget where it is.
- Fuel Assistance: The Hopkinton Rotary Club donated \$4,000 to the fuel assistance fund. \$2,000 came from the club, and \$2,000 was from the Rotary district matching grant. Marilyn shared that fuel is expensive, almost a dollar more

- **Preparations for Thanksgiving and Christmas**

- Thanksgiving: Probably about 55 households
- Christmas: 68 households for Christmas (31 kids), but Marilyn expects more. Marilyn needs gifts back by December 16-17

New Business

- **New Ideas for Event for Spring**

- ATECH Services: Allita suggested a spring event that provides information about ATECH Services. ATECH Services is the largest provider of assistive technologies in New Hampshire, allowing people with disabilities (especially those who are elderly) the means to stay at home
- Assistance with Downsizing/Organizational Planning: Another idea was to help people organize what they have and get rid of what they don't need. Kathy Ashton from First Church was suggested as a possible resource since she had a business doing this at one time.

- List of Available Resources to Help People Stay In Their Homes: Dawn suggested that, in addition to the above two ideas that both help people stay in their homes, we also raise awareness about other resources that are available to help people stay in their homes. These include Meals-on-Wheels, Dial-a-Ride, Choices of Independence Medicaid program, ServiceLink, agencies that will come into your home, etc. We might also want to raise awareness about how long the waiting lists are for nursing homes and assisted living homes.
 - Combining All Three: The committee proposed combining the three ideas into one spring event since they are all related to helping people stay in their homes. We thought people could mill around to different stations where resource people who are knowledgeable about what they provide could talk informally to those who are interested, providing information and answering questions. We also thought it might be effective to open the event with some personal stories of people who have been successfully supported in their homes by these various resources. And, of course, we should provide refreshments at the event. We discussed holding the event on a weekend in early April. We will try first to reserve the Community Room at the Library, and next we will try to reserve the upstairs at the Senior Center.
 - Assignments: Allita will contact a representative from ATECH Services. Nan will contact Kathy Ashton about downsizing/organizational planning. Beginning in January, Marilyn will contact representatives from various resources that help people stay in their homes.
- **Question about a Community Thanksgiving Meal**
 - Nan inquired if there is a community Thanksgiving meal. There is not, but it has been talked about for a long time. The problem is that it could be complicated. If there were one, it could be at the Senior Center where there is a TV for watching football. Also, we were reminded that Dimitri's sends out Thanksgiving meals to people in their homes. We encouraged one another to watch the papers and see what communities offer such a meal, and then perhaps talk to them at some point.

Next Meeting January 8 at 4:30 PM. (Lucy indicated she will be absent in January and February)
Meeting adjourned at 5:20 PM

Submitted by:
Gordon Crouch
Committee Secretary
November 17, 2018