

Human Services Advisory Committee
May 4, 2021 @ 4:30 pm

Present: Allita Paine, Nan McNicholas, Dawn Berry, and Marilyn Bresaw.
Missed: Luciele Gaskill

We met outside at the Slusser Building under the porch roof due to Covid restrictions. This was our first meeting together in over year since the pandemic started and all in person meetings were curtailed. Marilyn had kept us updated via email on the budget and how the needs of people in town were being met. The Food Pantry and monetary assistance continued thanks to Paula Simpkins and Marilyn's on-going outreach to residents in need of assistance. Nan McNicholas organized the yearly Angel Tree in December with First Congregational Church of Hopkinton to provide gifts and gift cards to residents.

Marilyn reported on her expenditures during the beginning of this fiscal year. \$22,000 of the \$50,000 budget has been spent which is 43% of the budget contrasted with the usual 33% in the budget cycle at this point. Of the \$22,000, most of the money went to help with rent and some electric bills. \$5,260 was spent on energy assistance from that fund. The Food Pantry is doing well financially thanks to donations from residents and particularly the support of the Lions' Club. Usage of the Food Pantry is dropping to 50-55 every other week from the higher usage in the midst of the pandemic.

Other support includes: 4 summer camp scholarships, 50-60 Senior Meals at a modest cost to recipients, and the Got Lunch program serving 8 families that include 18 children. Got Lunch is served monthly on the First Friday, school vacations, and every week during the summer. In Person Senior meals may begin again this summer depending on how the virus tracks.

Marilyn noted that many large buildings are being bought and renovated not for apartments which is contributing to an affordable housing problem in town.

We brainstormed future programs:

- A Thank You party for Marilyn and Paul
- Community gathering where we share a meal and listen to each other's covid quarantine stories
- Welcome Wagon type brochure introducing town services and opportunities for new people that could be distributed by realtors or sent to everyone. We will inquire if the Women's Club might want to

take on the project of mailing with our committee developing the brochure.

The Rev. Dr. Gordon Crouch has completed his second term on the Human Services Advisory Committee. We talked about replacements. Allita will contact Dennis Martineau, who had emailed Marilyn of his interest; and the Rev. Reed Loy is another possibility.

We also talked about committee roles. Allita will continue as chair, and we all appreciate her organization of the agendas and leadership. Dawn will continue another year as scribe.

Our next meeting will be June 1 at 4:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Dawn Berry