

Minutes August 21, 2017 Living Well in North Yarmouth Committee

Committee Members: Steven Palmer, Donna Palmer, Gay Peterson, Rod Duckworth, Ginny Van Dyke

Others Attending: Reverend Nancy White representing the North Yarmouth Congregational Church, Pastor Greg Sidders representing White Pine Church, Mark Gauger, Jeanne Chadbourne, Stephen Harris

The group discussed how the religious organizations are providing services to residents who attend, or not, the churches represented at the meeting. As has been expressed in earlier meetings, generally it is, as Greg pointed out, good people helping people. The informal network of residents helping neighbors is how much of the "helping hand" is taking place. White Pine has a new program, Giving Love Away, that will be reaching out to the communities represented by their congregation. The concept is to provide volunteers for community sponsored activities and/or needs. The church also has a Tool Shed program which is available to residents in North Yarmouth.

The Congregational Church has plans for a Sunday afternoon music and drama program starting in September and is organizing a weekly social time for any who may wish to linger in conversation, play board games, play cards or basically mingle with others.

White Pine will work to summarize the Tool Shed program in manner that will allow residents to understand the types of work the volunteers can handle under the Tool Shed program and who to contact should a resident be interested. I believe it was left that the church will be back in touch with the LWNy committee on this program.

Both churches generously offered their facilities to the town.

As expressed by Nancy White, this gathering was of great help in having the religious organizations and the municipality knowing what each is doing. The heat assistance program was cited as a good example of how we can work in a unified way to help those in need. The Tool Shed was a well received program.

Transportation was discussed. It was agreed that there will be an effort to reach out to the congregations and the municipality (through social media, newsletters, word of mouth, RFTH) to create a list of volunteers who could be contacted for transportation assistance. Ginny Van Dyke will be the point person for this. Names of volunteers will be given to Ginny and then Ginny will coordinate transportation requests. It was left that Greg Sidders and or Nancy White will see if there are volunteers to help the most pressing need of a resident for this Friday.

Rod Duckworth and Gay Peterson informed the group about the First Greeter program. Input on how to make the program available to new residents was discussed at length. The information from this discussion will be further discussed at the next meeting. Additionally, it was agreed that an orientation program for people volunteering to be First Greeters was vital. Gay Peterson is the point person for First Greeter. The agenda for the Sept 11th meeting will be the First Greeter program- getting the program launched.

Donna distributed the newly published Resource Guide. Much work by many went into gathering information to make the publication available. Many thanks were expressed to Donna and Kathy Whittier for getting this publication in our hands. Greg Sidders and Nancy White will be placing the resource guides in their respective churches. The town office will make the publication available for pick up. The LWNy committee table at the Fun Day will also have copies available.

I most assuredly have left items of importance off of these minutes. Please make me aware of what I have omitted. I will amend the minutes accordingly.

Thanks for bearing with me.

Important dates: Fun Day: Sept 16th. Rod and Priscilla will cover the LWNy table. Rod from 10-12,

Priscilla from ? to ?.

The Kite Festival: Oct 7th. Ginny will help flip and Priscilla will help serve.

Thanks to everyone. This was a very positive meeting.

Steven Palmer

To be discussed. This is a concern expressed by AI. Please read as we will need to discuss this.

> Steve, my concern is again focused on the charge. Have we addressed all of the "needs" that were listed in the survey? Then have we developed and implemented strategies to respond to those needs/desires expressed in the survey? I get a bit uncomfortable with the statement of "develop and implement strategies to respond to those needs/desires" without buy in from the Select Board. Have we done that with regard to the issue of First Greeter and Transportation? Are there other items that we have passed over because they become more difficult to deal with? It is my opinion that we need to make sure the Select Board is on board with our approach (not just the Town Manager) and we need to review the issues brought up in the survey to make sure we have addressed them or at least taken a stand that they may be more that we can deal with and need to be brought before the Board for them to deal with. Just my thoughts. I will not be present at the meeting on August 21st. AI