

Shelburne Social Services Committee
March 24, 2021
Zoom Meeting

Present: S. Furry-Irish, P. Fontaine, L. Maguire, E. Limanek, L. Riell

Call to Order: 6:31 PM

Note Taker: Linda Riell

Agenda: approved

Minutes: Feb. minutes approved

Treasurers Report: (L. Riell) Balance SS Account= \$11,100/ Community Fund= \$4,478.57

Citizen Participation: David Leckey, Economic Development Consultant, hired by the Selectboard for 6 months (January-June). David gave an overview of his role with the town and answered questions.

- David is in the process of interviewing 100 plus Shelburne residents and business owners to understand what people think about economic development in Shelburne, will compile information and suggest specific actions and initiatives to help the town move forward.
- Asks the same 5 questions to each person: (relating to the business community, town government, community as a whole) what outcomes are you looking for 5 years from now, what assets and people do we have to make it happen, why aren't we already there yet, give 3 specific actions in each of the 3 sectors that would be useful, and who else should I talk to?
- Examples of who he has spoken to thus far: business owners, school board members, town employees, committee members, Champlain Housing Trust, CEOs of Teddy Bear, Shelburne Museum and Shelburne Farms.
- After the interviews, he reports back to each person as to what he heard and that information goes in his report to the Selectboard.
- In addition to the personal interviews, he also compares Shelburne to similar towns, speaks to colleagues and peers in other towns and finally in June reports his findings back to the Selectboard. He feels that the report will be of value to the Town.
- Questions and discussion follow. In summary; a definition of economic development could be the building of wealth and opportunity. Those that thrive are likely to leverage their core strengths to further themselves economically. We also should consider how wealth and opportunity doesn't spin around to everyone in our community and this is the connection to Social Services.
- The question is asked "Will David have access to residents who are underserved?" If anyone has folks in mind please help David make that connection by emailing the names and contact information to: daleckey@gmail.com

OLD BUSINESS

1. **Goals Progress:** Sue shared the draft of the reminder letter to agencies, asking them to report back to Social Services 6 months after receiving a grant as to how the funds were used. She is contemplating creating a google doc that recipients can fill out on line. Agencies may also send other supporting materials when reporting back.
2. **Equity Task Force:** a group of 6-8 members including Cate Cross as Selectboard liaison, has been meeting for 4 weeks. They presented the result of their complex and detailed work to the Selectboard on 3/23. The recommendation was to consider grant writing, hiring a town consultant, bringing in more diverse voices to the group. The report was well received and the

board has requested an outline on how to proceed. The Equity Task Force now exists on the Town Website and the presentation/powerpoint made to the SB is also available on the site.

- 3. Outreach:** Discussion during the past several meetings has centered around how to let the community know about the agencies requesting help from the Social Services Committee and how grants are decided and distributed. **Action item:** Elaine will write down ideas for an article (to be submitted to the Shelburne News, Front Porch Forum and Shelburne Business and Professional Association) and send to Sue.

NEW BUSINESS

- 1. JUMP Application:** Grant of **\$1000 approved** to apply towards grocery vouchers, transportation and utility assistance.
- 2. Dismas House:** Following a robust discussion, a grant of **\$1200 approved** to support the food budget. We considered the importance of the mission v. the small number of residents served at the Dismas House and although didn't fully fund the amount requested, felt that the granted amount was appropriate.
- 3. Food Pantries Idea:** Patricia and Sue have been in touch with Georgene regarding a pilot project under consideration by the Shelburne Food Shelf; The Little Free Pantry.
 - It is reported that Georgene plans to ask Rice Lumber to donate the materials needed to build an initial box in order to test run the project. Estimated cost is \$300.
 - The first box would be located at SCHIPS and co-sponsored by them. Plan is to ask local church organizations to sponsor the pantries if the pilot is successful.
 - The idea is to provide take it as you need it non-perishable food items using the honor system. The pantries will be re-filled as needed by the Food Shelf and co-sponsors.
 - Following discussion, the Social Services Committee **resolves** to support the Little Free Pantry Pilot Project in collaboration with the Shelburne Food Shelf.
 - Update to be provided at our next meeting.
- 4. Other:** Sue informed the committee that grant thank you letters from UVM Health and Hospice, Champlain Housing Trust and the Catamount Trail Association have been received.

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday April 28 @ 6:30 PM

ADJOURN @ 7:58 PM Goodnight!