

Shelburne Social Services Committee
Wednesday, December 16, 2020
Remote Meeting

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

Call to Order: 6:32 PM

Note Taker: Linda Riell

Citizen Participation: none

Agenda Approved: yes

Minutes Approved: November 2020

Treasurers Report: Linda Riell reports current balances of \$20,600 in the budget and \$6,700 in the Community Fund.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Racial Justice Update: Patricia reports that the current book group has successfully concluded its fall session. She is in touch with the library concerning planning for the winter session. It will likely be a practical book: White Supremacy and Me.

There have been requests and conversations regarding bystander training (what to do when one witnesses an incident). Discussion as to what Social Services could do to support this: perhaps we can team up with Charlotte to offer a course?

Sue has spoken with Kevin about the possibility of Friends of the Library purchasing/donating 20 copies of the book "The Hate You Give" as reading material for a potential community discussion group. This is a young adult/adult book, it is also a movie. It is suggested that the movie could be run at the library as a follow up to the discussion group.

- Funding Questions: Sue met with Lee to discuss: 1.) Use of Community Fund (it rolls over each year), it's at the Social Services discretion as to how to best use these funds. 2.) Would it be possible to donate some of the SS Funds to the Shelburne Police for diversity training and/or to help support the mental health personnel who accompany the Shelburne Police on the daytime shifts: the police training sessions are currently well funded and attended. We share the mental health officers with 6 other communities, it would be an expensive proposition to add funding for more hours. 3.) No Mas Polimigra follow up: what would be the best way for a community to raise the topic with local police that they defer from having a relationship with ICE? No answer at this point.
- VT Family Network: continuation of discussion (from November meeting). **\$1000** request is approved, funds to be used by the Network to assist families in being the best advocates they can be for their disabled or special needs children.

NEW BUSINESS: (funding requests discussed and approved)

1. **Agewell (\$2500):** funds will help the agency to advocate for aging population, provide access to healthy meals and in-home services and assist in integrating community services.

2. **Ascension Childcare (\$1000 from the Community Fund):** funding will assist in purchasing air purifiers, now needed in order to comply with new childcare licensing requirements due to Covid.
3. **The Lund Center (\$2500):** funds will help with delivery of services that empower families to break the cycles of poverty, addiction and abuse.
4. **VT Adult Learning (\$1000):** funds will be used to help adult learners purchase instructional materials and pay for online classes to further high school completion, to purchase student Chromebooks and hot spots, and to cover the cost of taking the GED.

OTHER:

- Sue noted that funds dispersed this evening totaled \$7000 from the budget and \$1000 from the Community Fund. As we hit the half-way mark for the fiscal year, we should keep our remaining finances in mind. (\$13,600 remaining in the budget and \$5,700 in the CF)
- Update: 2 more agencies have indicated interest and will email grant applications to be considered next month: 1.) Community Reparations and 2.) Catamount Outdoor Center
- Linda will ask Peter Frankenberg for a printout of last years expenditures (grant amounts, agencies that received them, which account they came from). Information will be available for January meeting.
- The committee received a heartfelt thank you letter from the Howard Center. Very nice!
- A brief discussion followed as to how we can ensure that agencies are responding to a request made upon receiving funds: 6 months after receiving a grant please notify the Social Services Committee as to how the funds were used. This will be an agenda item in January.
- Patricia reflected on the good work done by this committee with gratitude and appreciation to all: our wonderful chair and all that she does, our Treasurer, all our members and our new member! Sue wished to thank Patricia for all she continues to do in the name of racial justice. Thank you everyone, happy holidays and all the best in the new year!

NEXT MEETING WEDNESDAY JANUARY 27, 2021 @ 6:30 pm

Adjourn at 7:54 PM!