

Shelburne Social Services Committee
10/26/2022
Hybrid Meeting

Present: S. Furry-Irish, S. Moran, E. Limanek, L. Riell

Call to Order: 6:34 PM

Note Taker: L. Riell

Agenda Approved

Citizen Participation: Tom Bodette, John Hammer, Mike Thomas, Josh Flore, Lori York, Alison Johnson, Brett Cluff, Rachel Petraska, Courtney Close

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

- Sue welcomed all and gave an introduction as to what the Social Services Committee does and asked folks attending to share experiences of dealing directly with community members and to highlight what the most urgent needs are.
- Alison Johnson (Habitat for Humanity): currently building a 2 family duplex on Irish Hill for clients needing independent, safe, stable housing. The need for affordable housing is critical. Can always use more volunteers to help. People can go online to sign up at VTHabitat.com
- Rachel, Courtney, Brett (Shelburne Community School): The 3 highest priorities are families experiencing homelessness, food insecurity and mental health issues. Lack of transportation to the Food Shelf is a big issue. They ask that we be advocates for our schools and support teachers and staff. What they really need is bodies at school: subs, mentors, volunteers who can just be extra adults in the building.
- Mike Thomas, Josh Flore (Shelburne Police): it has been a success to have Outreach Services coordinating with Police M-F, 8 AM -8PM. There is a high need for those services after hours and on weekends. The problem there is a shortage of mental health/social services personnel and the funding needed to increase those programs.

We were told of the need for the police to have a petty cash fund for immediate needs. Through discussion we learned that the Shelburne Food Shelf has a committee for non-food item requests and that the Social Services has granted funds in the past to be used for non-food items.

- ACTION ITEM: Linda will contact Pam Brangan to set up a meeting between Social Services and Food Shelf Non-food Committee to see if we can facilitate providing a petty cash fund for immediate needs that Shelburne Police are finding as they deal with individuals and families who are struggling.
- John Hammer (Age Well): Explained Meals on Wheels to Shelburne residents age 50 plus with mobility issues. Clients can fill out a form online to begin receiving meals once per day M-TH with 3 meals on Friday. Isolation is a problem for those having meals dropped off. The person who delivers provides important human contact. Age Well delivers thousands of meals per year.

Side Point: John stressed the need for Internet Service throughout Shelburne. He asks that people bring this up to Selectboard !

- Lori York (Charlotte Senior Citizen Center): provides meals once per week plus pick up meals. Shelburne residents are 30% of their program. They participate with Age Well.
- Tom Bodette (Shelburne Food Shelf): There are more families with more needs, but numbers have not increased much since the pandemic. Tom spoke to the group about a sub committee of the Food Shelf that takes requests for non-food items. This led to the discussion about a possible solution to the police need for an immediate petty cash fund to help residents struggling to finance an immediate need (such as a bus ticket, utility bill or a car registration etc).
- Sue thanked everyone for attending and for sharing their thoughts.

OLD BUSINESS

1. New members: Lori York will fill out an application to join the committee!
2. Publicity: Sue and Elaine are working on info to share with Shelburne News and Front Porch Forum.
3. Six month reports: Sue has received info from several agencies and will forward them to Sean who is organizing the reports.
4. Budget Time: Sue will refer to the report she submitted to the Selectboard last Fall. She is recommending level funding. A brief report will be made at an upcoming Selectboard meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

- VT Family Network: **\$1000 grant approved** to assist with funding the Family Support Program which provides various services to kids with special needs.
- VT Association for the Blind: **\$500 grant approved** to assist with service programs to minimize the impact of living without sight.
- Dismas House \$3000 request tabled until next meeting.
- VT Foodbank \$2000 request tabled until next meeting. Linda will contact Pam Brangan to ask what funding or assistance the Food Shelf receives from the Foodbank.

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday November 16 @ 6:30 PM

ADJOURN @ 8:05 PM