

COMMUNITY HEALTH COMMITTEE
DEEP RIVER TOWN HALL

Meeting Minutes: February 15, 2011 (7:30 pm)

Attendance: Committee Members - Russell Marth, Maura Carver, Nancy Howard, Carl Olson, Diane Recchia. Absent: K. Zarfos, J. Nickse (Guests/citizens – Selectman David Oliveria and Deep River Social Worker Rosie Binger)

1] Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 pm by Chairman Marth. In order to accommodate the valuable time of Ms. Binger and Selectman Oliveria, the first 30 minutes of the meeting were spent in an informal Q&A period. The Committee had requested that Rosie Binger, the Town's new Social Services designee to visit with us, which she was kind enough to do.

Discussions ranged from:

- Methods of operation/systems (*food cards from Adams – are pharmacy cards a good idea?*),
- Referral sheets (*being developed simultaneously by CHC and Rosie to send her version*)
- How Rosie uses her voucher system (CHC members were agreeable to her current system as explained).
- The food pantry, possibly using the Farmers' Market as a source with appropriate vouchers
- And general office problems/equipment limitations were also discussed.

The CHC and Rosie talked about the \$300.00 calendar year limit. It was explained that no oil company will not deliver less than 100 gallons, even in the case of an emergency. Since per/gallon prices are now in the \$3.40 range, 100 gallons would exceed the limit as imposed. The CHC members agreed to waive the \$300 limit in the case of oil-only as a remedy for a family in desperate need. A line should be added to the bottom of the document explaining this.

As a general comment, it seemed the relationship between Deep River's Social Services designee and the CHC was clarified and off to a good start. At approximately 8:00, there being no more discussion, Ms. Binger and Mr. Oliveria both left the meeting. The regular meeting agenda resumed at that time.

2] Minutes of previous meeting: D. Recchia made motion to accept the Jan 18, 2011 meeting minutes and the motion was seconded M. Carver. No changes or discussion. Motion passed 4 – 0.

3] Minutes of December 20 special meeting: It was agreed by mutual consent of members to table approval of these minutes.

4] Reports:

a) Mental Health Issues: Mr. Olson had evaluated services provided by the VNLV and other entities in order to ensure that citizens were adequately being served and had appropriate access to mental health help. His conclusion was that services were, in fact adequate. He discussed referrals and case management issues and on what criteria he based his findings. He noted that 7% of the VNLV cases were mental health related, a significant number. He had no recommendations at this time. The Chair requested that Mr. Olson continue to monitor these services and report to the committee from time to time.

b) Referral Document: A draft referral document was presented by N. Howard. Members liked it at first glance and all wanted time to review it along with the referral document to be sent by DR Social Worker. Comments on the document are welcomed and should be sent to all committee members.

c) VNLV Related Questions: The Chair asked if any members had questions regarding the VNLV and indicated that the three designated VNLV Board Members had recently received a draft of the annual report. No questions or comments were voiced.

d) Other: None

5] Old Business:

a) Additional Officer Elections: no action was taken

b) Public Relations: Little has been accomplished on this since the previous meeting. Marth reported no progress on a logo. Some basics and ideas were discussed. Possibly a talented high school art class student would be willing to take on a project on speculation.

The Winter edition of the Deep River News did not go out, it was reported. This was to be an initial source of publicity and information for the public.

A pamphlet must be developed after a logo settled upon, and newspaper publicity should progress - deemed to be a priority at this time.

It was also suggested that, if appropriate and if the proper time can be found, perhaps the "communications sign" near Devitt's Field could be used as part of the publicity for the new DR Community Fund. Marth will contact Jon Kastner about this possibility.

c) Health Services currently being provided compared to past services: This item was tabled until the next meeting. Dr. Zarfos has had difficulty reaching people with regard to this item. She will continue her efforts as we approach the March meeting. (Having accomplished most of the pressing items,

mostly social services and financial matters, the attention of the committee can now turn more toward health issues. This is what Dr. Zarfos is hoping to accomplish and find what services had been available in the past and what services may be necessary and useful to Deep River at present.)

d) Activities Schedule for 2011 The team reviewed the "Action Chart" of ideas proposed in the first couple meetings. D. Recchia noted some of the outstanding items to be addressed:

- Publicity work, including pamphlet, logo, letterhead, etc.
- Mailing(s) to generate funds for the DR Community Fund
- Events the CHC could take part in
- Holiday baskets, list of recipients and related items

Most other items have or are being addressed, or are ongoing work. Publicity items, again, were at the forefront.

Discussion turned to CHC participation at certain Deep River events. It was decided, after quite a bit of discussion, to look into

- Balloons (with a drum on them) to give away, possibly at the Muster in July in return for a minimal donation (other ideas encouraged).
- All members were certain we wanted to be part of Family Day in September.
- Other thoughts included participation or a banner to be displayed at 6th grade graduation
- A banner at Little League ballpark along the fence

Question arose whether the CHC would need some type of vending license. A couple members volunteered to look into finding these answers.

Someone should look into a banner... available notes did not show anyone specifically assigned to this item. If someone finds info, please email everyone.

5] New Business:

a) Meeting with Rosie Bininger (Social Services) detailed above.

b) Update on membership

The Chairman announced that a new member had been approved by the Board of Selectmen. Chuck Walker will be joining us at the March meeting.

(Audience of Citizens not necessary, no others were present.)

Other Items:

a) A couple minor housekeeping items: R. Marth shared a letter sent to him by First Selectman Smith which outlined money written from the Memorial Fund. Two checks had been written: one in the amount of \$250 to the Probate

Court for services, the other in the amount of \$1,600 to the Town Of Deep River in recompense for heating fuel applications payments, mistakenly put into the Memorial Fund by the Deep River Visiting Nurses. This money should have been deposited into the Town's General Fund, according to the Probate Judge.

- a) Two checks were received for the Deep River Community Fund, including a generous check from Selectman Oliveria. These checks were left in the care of the Town's Accounts Manager.
- b) (NOTE: While there is no formal tally, and without knowledge of any other donations that might have come in unknown to the Chairman, the Deep River Community Fund stands at a minimum of \$850 at this time and could possibly be higher.)

There being no other further items or discussion, motion was made to close the meeting by C. Olson and second by M. Carver. Meeting adjourned at 9:09.

Next meeting to be held at 7:30 pm, Wednesday, March 15 at the DR Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,
Russell Marth, Chairman
2/21/2011