

TOWN OF DEEP RIVER, CONNECTICUT
Community Health Committee

Minutes – April 19, 2011 Meeting
Location: Deep River Town Hall



Meeting Minutes:

Attendance: Committee Members - Maura Carver, Nancy Howard, Chuck Walker, Kate Bender, Russ Marth. Absent: J. Nickse, D. Recchia, C. Olson

1] Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 pm by Chairman Marth.

2] Introduction of New Member

Kate Bender was introduced to the committee members present. Kate is a health professional and a resident of Deep River for the past few years. It was noted that Dr. Zarfos has resigned.

3] Approval of Minutes from March Meeting

March minutes were briefly reviewed. Motion made by N. Howard and seconded by C. Walker. No changes or amends, minutes accepted: 4-0.

Old Business

4] Discussion of Request from FISH

The Chair asked for discussion on the presentation by Henry May of FISH presented at the March meeting. Each committee member was asked to give his/her opinion on whether the request for a donation was appropriate use of CHC fund and what, if anything, the CHC might do for FISH.

Each member, without exception, spoke in favor of contributing. Opinions and reasoning were cited as follows:

- FISH is a longstanding, well-recognized charity that drives patients to doctor appointments... something many people need in Deep River (many dozens of rides per year)
- Deep River uses more of FISH services than any surrounding town
- Deep River furnishes very few drivers
- Without the ability to get to an appointment, how can a patient recover their health? This is exactly the CHC's core "business"

Some follow-up discussion centered on whether the *Memorial Fund* could be used for this purpose, in light of the Probate Court's determination (to be determined). It was judged by everyone present that the Deep River Community Fund could be used for this purpose. After better funding, it was generally agreed that the CHC might be able to help FISH sometime in the future. Subject to be re-opened at a later point.

5] Voucher / Referral Documents

N. Howard presented her current versions of voucher/referral documents. One document was to be used by Social Services as a reference document and to be signed by the recipient. Another document helps Social Services track what is purchased by the recipient (in the case of store or pharmacy purchases). The third document is for office-to-office, a voucher to be used between Social Services and the Town's business office.

There were a few minor items to change (add a CHC logo and a couple "flow" notes) and once made, these should be sent to Social Services and the Selectmen's office as well as to the Town's Accounts person.

6] Donation Program

R. Marth outlined plans for a small, experimental mailing campaign. His draft letter, requesting a monetary donation for the DR Community Fund was reviewed, with several suggestions made for improvement. This initial campaign will be sent to a small list of Deep River residents and a few businesses. If judged to be successful, it would be carried over to as many residents as possible. The mail piece would have an outer envelope, inner reply envelope and a card to be returned with the donation. Marth will purchase stamps, labels and blank envelopes for the mailing. Target mailing date is sometime in mid-May.

7] Officer Elections

Subject was broached but no action was taken.

8] Muster Day Project(s)

Marth revealed that despite great efforts, the "picture" plan (to solicit donations) must be shelved. Discussion ensued as to the best way to use the Muster Day as a possible way to collect some money for the DR Community Fund. At length, it was decided to try to create a "banner or poster" that would tell people who the CHC is and what its function is. Also, to promote donations, (carefully, we don't want to scare the fun loving crowd) from Muster attendees who wish to help "the Town's food pantry" - a prime CHC mission.

It was decided this should be done, on Muster Day morning, to see what result might come of such an effort.

9] Deep River Family Day in September

An idea from K. Bender was to advertise where possible, stating that the CHC would be collecting non-perishable food at various locations on Family Day. It was proposed that setting up at a couple different locations might be best. All thought these ideas had merit, to be embellished upon at future meetings. Further, it was proposed that some of the health professionals on the CHC might run blood pressure clinics (and so forth) on Family Day in order to allow the CHC to promote itself. It was hoped that someone from the VNLV might volunteer their time, as well, to help.

10] New Business / Audience of Citizens

No New Business was brought forward. No citizens were in attendance.

11] Adjournment

M. Carver made motion to adjourn, seconded by N. Howard. Passed 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,
Russell Marth, Chairman
(April 22, 2011)