

TOWN OF DEEP RIVER, CONNECTICUT
Community Health Committee

Minutes – September 20, 2011 Meeting
Location: Deep River Town Hall



Meeting Minutes:

Attendance: CHC Members – N. Howard, D. Recchia, C. Cosme, K. Bender and R. Marth. Absent: M. Carver, C. Walker and C. Olson.
Guests: None

1] Call to Order

Chairman Marth called the meeting to order at 7:33 pm. It was noted that both Ms. Carver and Mr. Walker had notified the Chair of being unavoidably absent for the meeting.

2] Approval of Minutes from August Meeting

Minutes from the August meeting were reviewed. Motion made by C. Cosme and seconded by N. Howard to accept them. No changes or omissions were discussed or needed. Motion to approve passed 4-0

Old Business

5] Holiday Baskets

The holiday basket program was also discussed along with the “Stuff-A-Cruiser” program (Nov 13), which more or less go hand-in-hand.

CHC will:

- Produce and hand out a flyer at the event informing people of needed items and/or sale items germane to the Thanksgiving baskets and the Food Pantry needs in general
- Communicate the program to Selectman/Constable Dick Smith
- Check with the Elem school... are they doing anything for a program?
- Check with Lions' Club and Liberty Bank (Russ Marth to do this) and ask the VNLV to communicate any clients that are in need to Rosie Bininger at DR Social Services
- Procure boxes for the food that can be numbered to identify the recipient
- Will create and deliver (if nec.) the baskets/boxes from Nov 14 through Nov 20... “All hands on deck” for that time period.

Cindy Cosme told the members that the Valley Field Hockey team wishes to help with the T-Day baskets. Volunteer help is gratefully acknowledged and will be accepted.

It was decided to do “vouchers” for turkeys, rather than handle fresh or frozen birds. We do not have the resources for these items to be kept safely. (We have been advised that it is the best course of action.) There may be a need to have smaller (chickens or very small turkeys) for some residents who may be alone or cannot prepare a large bird.

The CHC has decided to visit the Food Pantry (get a key from Mr. Smith) just to see what’s going on and how much room there is, etc. It was decided to use a Sunday night at 7pm for a visit. (October 2nd?)

CHC is developing a list of foods and/or items that are needed for the food pantry (might include things like toothpaste, pasta or like items that would not normally be considered by most people). This list could be given to people who are shopping (like for the “Stuff-A-Cruiser” effort), might list what needed items are on sale, besides those that are needed.

Question... is the Christmas season a repeat of this exercise?

6] Officer Elections

The Chairman asked for nominations for a Secretary and/or Vice Chair. C. Cosme nominated D. Recchia for Vice-Chair (K. Bender seconded) and D. Recchia nominated C. Cosme for Secretary (N. Howard seconded). Nominations were accepted by the Chair and upon vote approved 4-0.

7] VNLV Questions / Discussions

Kate Bender asked when the VNLV Board might approve her nomination. R. Marth reported that he has had no word about it from the VNLV membership committee chairperson.

The makeup of the CHC was discussed with an eye toward available spots (1 remaining as of this date) and who might fill that. Several people have asked them about taking a seat on the committee.

Also discussed was whether there were rules about how many unexcused absences (defined as a ‘no-show’ with no notification from the member) from monthly meetings that a member could miss.

8] Financial Review and Donation Mailing

A complete financial statement from the town’s account manager was received in time for the September meeting. Current expenses were completely reviewed by the members, as well as income sources.

Assets of the Memorial Fund: \$65,030 plus checking in the amount of \$634. DR Community Fund balance is \$30,565.

Total paid out for assistance (including the recent donation to FISH) for the period July 1 to Sept 20, 2011 is \$1,120.

Results from Family Day activities: Cash donations totaled \$15.00. One check from a resident: \$100.00. Collected one large box of food and handled a dozen blood pressure checks. (VNLV gave 6 flu shots.)

Notes: The Family Day donations are included in the totals above. None of the figures include cents, all are rounded off to nearest dollar.)

9] Large Event, Ideas and Planning

M. Carver, in absentia, sent her findings on the wine-tasting event. She forecast that tickets could be priced at \$25 per couple or \$15 for a single entry. She had contacted Shore Discount Liquors on South Main Street, and they are willing to help/run a wine event.

Location has proved to be a stickier challenge. D. Recchia has contacted several locations. Many do not allow alcohol, some are too small and some inappropriate for other reasons. Our choices are now limited, we all concurred, to the Carriage House or possibly the Lace Factory.

Evidently, to have a decent-sized event, the area needs to be fairly substantial. Further investigation to be carried out.

10] Other Items

The Chairman discussed a fall mailing, and sought permission from the membership to allow him to proceed with the mailing plans as previously presented last spring. More to the point, to do so without further review by the membership and as his schedule might permit.

All agreed, by consensus, to allow this initial, experimental mailing to proceed and be scheduled as to best accommodate the Chairman. Several members offered to help if needed.

11] Adjournment

No other business was brought forward. D. Recchia made motion to adjourn, seconded by C. Cosme. Passed 4-0. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

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