

TOWN OF DEEP RIVER, CONNECTICUT
Community Health Committee



Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, Jan 15, 2013
Held at 56 High Street, Deep River

Present: Russell Marth, Diane Recchia, Maura Carver, Nancy Howard, Janet Klinck, Grace Krick. Excused absences: Cindi Cosme, Kate Bender

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:32 pm. Election of officers for 2013 was the first order of business. Cindi Cosme was nominated to serve as secretary for a second year by J. Klinck, motion seconded by G. Krick. Janet Klinck was nominated for Vice Chair by D. Recchia, seconded by G. Krick. Russell Marth was nominated for Chairman by N. Howard, also seconded by G. Krick. No additional nominations were forthcoming, and nominations were closed. By unanimous vote, the slate of candidates was elected. The Chairman thanked those who had served during 2012, which was a successful year for the CHC.

- 1) Approval of minutes from December 2012 meeting (the agenda called for approval of the November minutes, but these had been previously approved at the Dec meeting). G. Krick made motion to accept the Dec 2012 minutes, seconded by N. Howard. No changes or omissions were noted or discussed. Minutes passed unanimously.
- 2) Old Business:
 - a) Review of finances: DR Community Fund, Memorial Fund, expenditures and income – Reports not available at this point in time.
 - b) Availability of a health-related article for the Winter edition of the DR News was discussed. A few topics were brought up, and all were judged as appropriate, including those written by a competent authority or a short article downloaded from a reputable source, from the web. J. Klinck will be the “clearing house” for any information or ideas for the next article... deadline of Jan. 31 was noted.
 - c) The Chairman noted that few income producing programs were monetarily successful in 2012, though several new programs were introduced. Many will continue as agreed upon by the CHC members during a lengthy discussion:
 - 1) Donation letters – will continue and next effort to be worked on during the February meeting
 - 2) The “popsicle program” first tried this past summer at one of the town concerts, was popular with citizens, an excellent opportunity to let townspeople know about our work and a modest financial success. This program, all agreed, should be expanded and J. Klinck will speak with the DR Park & Rec to see what concerts we might be able to attend.
 - 3) The “Soup For You” day has been tabled due to lack of a suitable location. It will likely be rescheduled for early fall 2013.

4) Taco Night, while popular with the CHC members, will probably not be repeated in 2013. However, this is subject to change.

5) The “Cruiser Night” food donation program was successful and will be expanded, if possible, to two (and possibly three) nights in 2013.

6) Our usual table during “Family Day” in September is also popular and will remain on the schedule. This day-long event allows us to “brand” the CHC, collect food and donations and meet with members of the community to further knowledge of our mission. The members of the CHC who are certified nurses also provide BP checks at no cost.

7) The Stuff-A-Cruiser events were very successful in 2012. (Technically, this even belongs to the DR Police, but has become an adjunct program of the CHC and also part of the town’s Thanksgiving meals program.)

The Chairman shared that he went before the Board of Selectmen to commend the efforts of DR Officers Sypher and Lewis, along with Trooper Chris Cope, all of whom did an excellent job during the recent holiday season. This program will continue in 2013.

6) New ideas: Included working with the Chester/Deep River Lions Club at their vision screening. It was suggested that the CHC would be on hand, making blood pressure checks available at the same event.

Another idea put forth was to rent a table or area at the Congo. Church flea market in August. Member of the CHC would collect items for sale (books, CDs and DVDs, for example) with proceeds to be donated to the Deep River Community Fund. R. Marth volunteered his truck/car to transport items and G. Krick to look into getting a space.

7) Diane Recchia shared her experience with a “fair” at a local school where children were encouraged to participate in a wide variety of art, learning and similar activities. It was discussed how we could participate, or how we could run something like it, etc. No decisions were made, but all agreed that the idea was excellent and needs to be worked on with a possibility of CHC participation this year.

A few other items came up for discussion, but none were approved for this year. Sharing further ideas is encouraged throughout the year.

- d) Visting Nurses of the Lower Valley - The Chairman reported the VNLV continues to improve after many personnel changes were effected during 2012.

Equally pleasurable to report is that one of the CHC’s own members – Kate Bender – had been elected as Chairman of the Board of the VNLV during the annual VNLV meeting at the end of November. Congratulations Kate!

G. Krick asked about the number of representatives that the CHC/Town of Deep River could send to the VNLV Board. It was noted that there is currently an opening, the VNLV allows three members from Deep River.

Ms. Krick asked if she could serve as one of the representatives? (She would join K. Bender and R. Marth as Deep River's reps.) There was a brief, positive discussion, and by consensus, the CHC members quickly agreed to recommend Grace to the Board of Selectmen, whose prerogative it is to choose the town's representatives to the VNLV Board.

There was also a request that financial statements from the VNLV be brought to the CHC meeting for discussion.

- e) There was a brief discussion of the Chairman's plans in providing more meeting space at the High Street offices for CHC meetings. Plans include using the current meeting-size table, adding some meeting-suitable chairs and clearing unneeded desks and file cabinets from the areas. Additionally, some free standing closets would be purchased to store banners, paper, envelopes and other CHC-specific items. It is possible (and with acquiescence of the Social Services Coordinator) to take an additional refrigerator into the back area, should one become available. This would help at Thanksgiving time and possibly during the summer when fresh fruits and vegetables might become available from local gardeners.

There were no guests/citizens at the meeting. A very brief tour of the food stores was conducted and it was noted that the overabundance found in mid-November has now dwindled as we are in the midst of the colder months of the year.

There being no more business to conduct, motion was made to close the meeting by J. Klinck and seconded by M. Carver. Motion passed and the meeting was ended at 8:37 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Russell Marth, Chairman
(January 20, 2012)