

Town of Deep River, Connecticut

Community Health Committee

Date: August 25, 2015

Meeting Place: DR Town Hall 174 Main Street, Deep River, CT

The meeting was called to order at 7:34 pm. Members Present: Kim Olsen, Janice Kmetz, Maura Carver, Lori Gregan, Nancy Howard, Kate Bender, and Janet Klinck

Audience of Citizens: Dorothy DeMichael

- 1) Lori made a Motion to Accept the Secretary's minutes from June meeting. Janet seconded, Motion carried.
- 2) Discussion regarding food pantry issues: Rosie reports supply levels are in good shape. Committee to discuss how to format future drives once Rosie lets us know their needs. Janice reported there is a moth issue at the pantry site. She will purchase moth houses on Wednesday and place them in the pantry along with additional moth houses for replacements to be left for Rosie. It was also suggested to place bay leaves in the pantry as an additional deterrent. All food going out should be checked and properly discarded if necessary. We may want to avoid donations of wheat products for a while as moths thrive on wheat.

Kim, Janice and Lori met with Rosie to discuss what our committee can do to help. There is the possibility of opening the food pantry on Saturday mornings to accept donations – to be staffed by committee members. At this time, the library is accepting donations so that may suffice. Rosie indicated that help is really needed after a large food drive to restock the pantry and put everything in its place. Committee members will help after such drives i.e. postal, stuff a cruiser, etc., to be coordinated as needed.

Lori reported that the library will give a free paperback to those bringing food for the pantry on Deep River Day at their book sale – another great avenue for getting food donations.

Donations from the car show went very well. Kim provided an old car to stuff the trunk. Additional toiletry/feminine hygiene items were also donated. We need to remember the need for these items as well in the future.

- 3) Dorothy DeMichael presented information on a new program she and other members of the Deep River Congregational Church are bringing to Deep River. Family Table Food Ministries offers lower cost frozen foods of good quality. Deep River Congregational Church is in the process of becoming a host site and has applied with the state to process SNAP cards. At this time, orders are picked up in East Haven and brought back to Deep River for distribution at a certain time/place. Once the church is a host site, boxes will be delivered to Deep River by Family Table Food Ministries. More information can be found at www.familytablefoodministries.com.

Dorothy asked this Committee to assist in getting the word out about this service which is

available to all regardless of income. One thought is to include the information on our Facebook page once the CHC Facebook page is created (Janice and Kim to set up our page next week). We can also leave information with Rosie at the Food Pantry. Kate suggested we give out holiday food boxes at Thanksgiving or Christmas time instead of gift cards. Will review items slated for holiday boxes once the product lists are on their web site. It was also suggested that Dorothy put information on Board of Ed website which includes a directory for services for those in need.

4) Kim provided the financial report as follows:

Citizens DRCF account: \$58,615.27

Checking: \$2,681.76

Memorial Money Market: \$14,982.24

Food Pantry: \$4,891.55

For clarification, food pantry dollars can be used for gift cards from Adams to give to Rosie for distribution at her discretion. Rosie should keep track of who receives gift cards.

This Committee did not make a donation to FISH last year. Janice made a motion to donate \$500 to FISH, Kate seconded the motion. The motion carried.

- 5) Deep River Family Day: The date is September 19, 2015. This Committee will have a table in front of town hall and will offer the following: an apple to those that stop by the table and a raffle ticket to anyone supplying a non-perishable food item for the food pantry. Raffle prize will be a \$25 gift certificate to the Toy Company in Deep River (donated by Janice and Kim) and the drawing will take place at 1 pm that day. Janice will approach Scott's about donating the apples or providing a discount. Kim will pick up apples from Scott's on Saturday morning. Kim and Maura will man the table from 11 to 1 pm. We will also place a large jar out for monetary donations for the pantry.
- 6) VNLV. They do not meet in July or August, so their last meeting was in June. At this meeting, they approved their budget for FY16. They are still in need of two more representatives from Deep River. They meet the 4th Wednesday of every month except December, July and August. Committee members are considering serving as representatives and will discuss at next meeting.
- 7) Soup For You!: Committee hopes to hold this annual fundraiser again on Sunday, October 18th from 11:30 to 2 pm. Location was discussed and it was decided to try the Deep River Ambulance Barn which has a larger kitchen area and tables on site. Kim will check availability. A planning meeting was set for September 9th at 7:00 pm at the Town Hall to finalize details for this event.
- 8) Letter Campaign: Letter campaign has typically been done in the fall. Maura will contact former chairman, Russ Marth, to obtain a copy of previous letter and to learn about process for sending to all postal patrons in Deep River.

Kim made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Janice seconded. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Klinck