

Village Neighbors Task Force Minutes

June 15, 2017

In Attendance: Sally Fairfield(S), Thom Masterton (L), Carla Palmer (S), Judy Rudolph(P), Nancy Spittle (W), Nina Compagnon (S), Jim Ewen (NS), Gary Hirshfield(S), Maggie Houghton (W), David Dann (S), Chair, Susan Rice (S) ,Paula Lyons(S) Recorder

Minutes for the May 18, 2017 meeting were accepted.

Everyone received a copy of the final work plan and budget for the \$15,000 grant from the Dept of Housing and Development.

Congrats to the David Dann and family on a new grandson!

Announcements: Susan announced that she will not be attending the "Creating Community" Workshop on the following Wednesday in Worcester so that if anyone is interested they could join Nancy, Sally and Thom. She also mentioned that updated copies of The Silver Lining Resource Booklet from Life Path is available and can be requested by calling 413- 773-5555.

Thom read a letter of congratulations from the Leverett COA expressing support to Village Neighbors on the grant and for supporting elders staying in their home

Steering Committee Updates

IT:

Thom reported that \$3,000 has been allocated for software training, we will most likely use Club Express used by several VTV Networks. Thom purchased a "domain name" of Village Neighbor, both .net and .org, good for one year at the cost of \$56. Membership prices have increased and David suggested that Thom submit an invoice to the COA(where we still have money in the Shutesbury Education Fund) for the full membership in July. This will also be a start of keeping expenditure records and to reimburse Thom, although he would like to donate this amount. All invoices should be made out to Village Neighbors c/o Life Path. Gary suggested sub-committees anticipate expenditures and submit estimated amounts needed. A secondary membership will be given to Pelham. Nancy suggested that we put somewhere on the Med Ride form a place where a volunteer can indicate that they do not want reimbursement.

Membership Services:

The committee stressed that the first area of priority be Scope Of Services which will include transportation, IT, House Maintenance and Social /Educational. Best to not get too specific at this time but to see what services volunteers can provide. Nancy mentioned ~~doing more research into a low income model that~~ might provide free memberships to those on SNAP, Fuel Assistance and Mass Health. She also has information on average mean of income in the area.

We discussed the need for CORI checks on all our volunteers and thought it may not be necessary if they already are working for a larger organization where they have been vetted. David said that all Med Ride volunteers at this time are CORI checked and there is not a fee and will check on whether non-profit organizations get checked for free? Next meeting is June 27 at 10am

Volunteer Services:

Jim reported that brochures and manuals from several villages in MA and NE have been solicited and the committee is looking at the different policies. They have been invited to Groton and another network in VT and may consider going in the future. All members in Groton are also volunteers at the cost of \$120. If a member can't pay the full amount then they pay 20%. He reinforced the idea of keeping the list of services simple at the outset. They plan to develop a volunteer policy, manual application form and training guidelines and will meet on Thursday June 29, 12:30 -2.

We ended the meeting at 1:30 but will pick up with the report from the Public Relations, marketing and outreach sub committee next time followed by Governance and finance.

Next meeting will be on Thursday July 20 at NOON (not the earlier meeting time)