

Human Services Advisory Committee

Minutes of April 4, 2023

Present: David White, Luke Simon, Marcia Shell, Dawn Berry, Mary Reidy (by phone) and Nan McNicholas (by phone).

The March minutes were approved.

Park Avenue Park Social will be discussed at our May meeting. We are considering a June date to host the social.

Report from the Human Services Coordinator – Alicia Presti

- Community solicitation of camp scholarship donations has begun and the community is responding. Alicia hopes to wrap up the solicitation and awarding of scholarships by the end of May.
- Funds were received from Hopkinton Rotary via Louise Carr (Citizen of the Year) in the amount of \$500 to be used towards medical assistance for a town resident. The first individual was assisted with partial cost of prescription glasses.
- Redeterminations for the food pantry were completed.
- Dial-a-Ride has taken a hiatus during the remainder of winter after assisting with Wednesday lunch delivery from the Slusser Center. Alicia has been delivering the Wednesday meals to homebound seniors.
- Well checks continue and Alicia worked through multiple situations of concern.
- Housing information was given to residents whose leases are not being renewed in town. A question from David White was raised regarding the possibility to track reasons for leases not being renewed; such as, apartment building sold, increase in rent, nonpayment of previous rent, etc. The committee thought this would be helpful information for the Hopkinton Housing Committee. Alicia will track the information on reasons for nonrenewal of leases that is shared with her.
- Spreadsheets are being created for greater autonomy over management of donation account balances.
- The VNA “Better Balance, Better You” program is being promoted and begins on April 12th
- Alicia is working collaboratively with a case manager to remedy a homeless situation.
- A new mission statement for HSAC was researched and put together for review. This was the start to update ideas for new layout and information to include on Human Service’s web page.
- Assistance for March =
\$1250.00 housing
\$131.00 heating- general fund

\$113.07 other

YTD

\$1250.00 housing

\$1713.33 heat

\$692.95 electric

\$113.07 other

Donation expenses YTD

\$2,440.67 fuel (more people did not qualify under welfare guidelines)

\$152.4 medical

\$811.84 transportation

\$208.75 other

\$130.00 recreation scholarship

Mission Statement

Mission: To meet the basic human needs of citizens by providing interim emergency assistance to those who qualify and referrals to community resources to help individuals and families achieve self-sufficiency.

About: Low-income residents may qualify for interim assistance with rent, food, utilities, and medication. The Town of Hopkinton Human Services Department administers assistance through a voucher system with payments being made directly to vendors. Eligibility is determined through an application process and by following welfare guidelines of the Town of Hopkinton and under NH Law RSA 165. Assistance is rendered confidentially and at the lowest cost possible to town taxpayers. When applicable, Human Services will make referrals to other programs and long-term assistance. Arrangements will be made for the client to reimburse the town when they become financially able.

How to Apply: Contact the Human Service Department at humanservices@hopkinton-nh.gov or 603-746-8244 to discuss your situation, obtain an application or set up an appointment. After meeting with the Human Service Coordinator and submitting an application with the required supportive documentation, an applicant's household circumstances will be reviewed and a written decision issued.

The HSAC like the flow of this information for the website.

Housing Committee Update- Dawn Berry

Nothing has been communicated yet from the Housing Committee. Many residents applied for the at-large positions, and it has taken longer to determine the 5 at-large seats.

Surveying the Community

We reviewed and agreed with the simple questions Alicia provided for gaining information on the resident's familiarity with Human Services. Alicia will make hard copies available in public places, as well as, link for on-line responses. Drop off boxes will be at the Town library and Town Hall. Links will be

made available through various town groups, churches, the Legion, FaceBook, the Human Services website.

Community HHS Resources Categories

Luke will think about the next steps and how best to utilize HSAC members.

Walk Audit

Town is looking for input from every aspect of the community to participate in a walk that determines the “walkability” of Contoocook Village. People with the ability to use the app could partner with people not so technically literate. April 15 at 10 is the walk with training on the 12th.

Alicia will contact Anna for clarity.

Respectfully submitted,
Dawn C. Berry

Next meeting: May 2 at 4 pm.