

**Craftsbury Neighbor2Neighbor Committee**  
Meeting Minutes 10/24/22 7pm  
**IN PERSON at Town Hall**

**Welcome Jeremiah McCann**, our new community member-at-large. Penelope introduced Jeremiah and gave a brief history of the committee and its purpose: N2N rose out of the pandemic, and covered the bases of what assistance was needed. It started from the grassroots, then became a seven member town task force in 2021. Craftsbury's N2N committee became a model for the state.

**Discuss and approve minutes of the 7/7/22 meeting.** No discussion. Penelope moved, Leslie seconded, approval of minutes. All in favor.

**Reports on food supply grants.**

- \$345 is left in the GROW grant; the report is due soon. The rest of the grant was used to buy animals and feed. There are now a yearling cow and 5 calves to be wintered over at John Smith's, and feed costs are estimated at \$800. Kris will ask the funders if they will cover additional costs for feed. The learning part of the project is ongoing, and the funders are OK with that. Preliminary #'s show that the food pantry received 650# of beef to distribute for \$1.25/lb. Tim asked if the team has considered raising more efficient animals for meat. Other thoughts: it might depend on what people are interested in. The pantry could sell higher value cuts of meat to offset the production costs of meat going to the pantry. The pantry might partner with the co-op on a venture like this. In the long run, N2N is probably NOT the best home for the project.
- The Young Leaders grant has been more challenging to spend down. Collaborators Sterling and the Academy have had difficulties lining up students or staff to participate. The funder is OK with that, too. \$4,465. remains in this grant fund. We discussed whether some of this amount may be able to be moved to the GROW grant project to feed animals next winter. This would need approval from the grantor.

**Refresh of mutual aid lists and forms** – Michelle was to have sent a notice out to the volunteers on the N2N list, but some committee members who are on the list did not receive such a notice. Kris will follow up on this. We are still up in the air about how to put the word out for new volunteers to be on the list, knowing it's tricky to ask people to volunteer when there is nothing immediate for them to do. We do want to remind people that N2N is here and able to connect folks with help, probably via a post on Front Porch Forum stating what kinds of assistance are available.

Penelope mentioned that town resident Lisa Sammet who is retiring from the Jeudevine Library played a central role in coordinating Hardwick volunteers responding to needs in the early years of the pandemic. She may be interested in helping in this volunteer coordination capacity in Craftsbury.

**Capacity/Focus of N2N during usual times** People who don't have family or neighbors to help are the ones we need to be concerned with. Also, when more people are under stress from economic or health circumstances, needs rise.

Kit referred to the new Hardwick area organization, the Civic Standard, working on creating a "culture of resilience", as an example of an interesting approach.

**Reports/Needs/Concerns from representatives:**

- Food Pantry and Vermont Everyone Eats - Kris reported all the gas cards have been given out. Food pantry has been serving more people (# of Craftsbury residents served every week in the 80s), as food costs are going up and resources for Covid relief are going down. Everyone Eats is ending at year end, and Kris wonders if there is anything we can do to help it survive; the program has helped so many people. Food insecurity is definitely a significant concern in the community.
- Mental Health - Susie reported that \$3,000 was raised by the walk. The MH committee is moving to become a bigger presence in the community.
- Business/School/Churches – Kit reported it has been a good fall season for revenue for the Genny, but staffing has been challenging due to the continued circulation of Covid virus. Kit also referred to the upcoming end of the Everyone Eats program as a big issue. The Genny is interested in helping to build connections using their email list.
- Health Officer – Tim is concerned about the future of Hardwick rescue. If it becomes fully professionally staffed, costs will increase and services will decrease. Jeremiah briefed everyone about the status of EMS volunteer staff in the area.
- Emergency Management and Trash – Penelope reported that the town will move to annual updates to its hazard mitigation plan, making the updating process easier. There is a new head staff person at LRSWMD. Town residents are reminded the Wolcott drop-off is open Saturday and Sunday, and accepts electronic waste.

**Other Business** - Michelle has set up a separate checking account to administer and track N2N funds more easily within the town's books.

**Adjourned** at 8:45 p.m. The next meeting will be January 5th, 2023.