

DRAFT

Craftsbury Neighbor to Neighbor Committee Meeting Minutes October 27, 2023

Kris called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. Present in person at Town Hall: Leslie Taylor, Kit Basom, Kris Coville, Penelope Doherty, Selectboard Rep. Susan Houston, guest John Zaber

1. Approval of Minutes

Penelope moved, Kit seconded, approval of the minutes of the August 3rd meeting. **All in favor - minutes approved.**

2. Narcan availability conversation

John Zaber is inspired by his volunteer work with Lamoille County Restorative Justice to propose that Craftsbury consider how and where to make Narcan kits readily available in the town. Anyone can save the life of a person who is suffering the effects of an opioid emergency by administering the Narcan medication, a nasal spray. Dispensers (like a vending machine but no money is required) are now being made available for rural VT communities. If always unlocked, the vestibule of the town hall would be one likely place to keep a dispenser of pre-made kits. They should also be available in other locations around town. Neighbor to Neighbor supports the town Mental Health Committee in coming up with the best locations. Once they are chosen, a clear map of where they are available should be created and circulated widely around the town. John will talk with Michelle W. about working together on this.

3. Hazard Mitigation Plan Tasks Update

Kris, Jeremiah and Penelope met to consider, given July lessons learned, what would be realistic roles for N2N to take on in the Craftsbury LEMP for future disasters. Next step is to meet with Bruce about the same, per the process and the Hazard Mitigation Plan. Jeremiah is arranging a time for that. No other updates at this time.

4. Update on flood recovery in NEK

Penelope reviewed the 3 phases of any disaster: response, relief and recovery. There is still some relief being provided to entities in NEK locations, such as homes needing heat, mold remediation, or construction help, but we're also moving into longer-term recovery. The NEK Long Term Recovery Group (LTRG) (new name for Tri County Long Term Recovery Group) is being formed to assist residents and businesses in Orleans, Essex and Caledonia counties with needs that remain after federal resources have been tapped. NEK community members are putting together, with FEMA and State support, a founding group that for now will draw members primarily from Barton, Glover and Hardwick as those were the areas hardest hit by the flooding - but all affected entities in the three counties who have unmet needs will receive attention. LTRGs are being formed in other areas of the state as well.

The LTRG model is recognized by VOAD ("Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters") members and connects to bigger regional and national resources. Basically the LTRG groups will be assigned disaster case managers who get a list of entities with unmet needs, go check out the situations, and present recommendations/needs to the LTRG. Some needs can be referred to local entities (NEKHS, e.g., or NEKCA or Capstone), and the LTRG then looks for resources for what's remaining. It's important to note that as with anything, needs will be prioritized. Any Craftsbury residents/entities who registered with

FEMA or SBA will be on the list; if we know of anyone who has needs who didn't register there, there will be a way to add them for review. Penelope will report back on that process.

Once the pressing needs from this flood are addressed, the LTRGs will look towards what's needed to build community resilience before the next disaster.

5. Discuss best uses for proceeds from flood relief benefit concert

\$4,603.72 remains from the funds donated on July 15th. Committee members proposed that the Town hang onto these funds in case unmet needs for flood recovery are remaining after agency assistance is finalized. If unmet needs are greater than the funds available, Neighbor to Neighbor will raise additional funds from the community.

6. Meeting frequency and day

Kris asked, and members discussed, whether we feel we would be more engaged with more frequent meetings, or whether we prefer it the way it is (quarterly), and just call special meetings when we need to take on specific initiatives or tasks - such as deciding who will take what after the N2N LEMP roles are settled? Examples were discussing call trees, shelter manager training, outlining processes/access for call takers to use the information collector that echoes the State SEOC database, etc. We also need to look at better days of the week, since Thursdays don't seem to work for Jeremiah. Kris will email committee members about their availability for meeting on a different day of the week; possibly Mondays would work.

7. Sharing & Other business

- Susie expressed gratitude that a recent incident where a car rolled into the side doorway of the church on the common didn't happen on a day when food pantry volunteers were there.
- Leslie is on a new committee of the Housing Forum which has been meeting at the East Craftsbury church once a month. The committee is looking into the possibility of forming a new non-profit entity, a Community Housing Trust, that would be able to obtain assets that could be used for affordable housing projects in Craftsbury, Albany, Greensboro and Glover.

8. Adjourn

Penelope moved, Kit seconded, that the meeting be adjourned. **All in favor - The meeting was adjourned at 7:58 p.m.**

Submitted by
Leslie Taylor