

Craftsbury Neighbor to Neighbor Committee

Meeting Minutes April 27, 2023

Kris called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. Present in person at Town Hall: Leslie Taylor, Kit Basom, Kris Coville, Penelope Doherty, Jeremiah McCann

1. Approval of Minutes - Kit moved, Penelope seconded, approval of the minutes of the February 2nd meeting. **All in favor - minutes approved.**

2. Review calendar of N2N assigned tasks from Hazard Mitigation plan - Penelope and Kris led the review.
 - Ensuring residents have timely information about solid waste disposal options - Penelope is doing this on a regular, ongoing basis
 - Establishing a permanent location for the Craftsbury satellite food pantry - in process.
 - Integrating the operations of N2N into the Local Emergency Management Plan - Penelope is currently meeting with the Selectboard about the Emergency Operations Center & shelter options.
 - At the July meeting the N2N committee will plan the tasks that need to be done for winter:
 - Promoting safe winter driving practices. Include a Name the Plow contest, and putting together a list of things/kit the Genny could stock for residents' cars.
 - Promoting awareness of a winter tire access program
 - Establishing a network of volunteers to dig out residents who need help. This task will be addressed by revamp of our neighbor support list.

3. Schedule summer season N2N tasks for Hazard Mitigation compliance
 - a. Work with home health care providers and volunteers to increase awareness of heat illness.
 - i. Penelope will get the toolkit from the VT Department of Health and climate planner from NVDA, and review this info for inclusion in postings on Front Porch Forum and fliers.
 - ii. Same postings can be used to promote people signing up on the statewide special assistance list (CARE list).
 - b. Identify elders at risk in a heat emergency and identify spaces/buildings where they may find relief from heat.
 - i. Kris will ask Tim to research possible cooling centers for Craftsbury residents, including checking to see if Craftsbury Library will have cooling capacity with its newly upgraded HVAC system.
 - ii. Kris will check with Kevin G. about collaborating on this task as the Energy Committee is assigned to inform people about DIY cooling solutions. Our preference is to give people options rather than assigning specific solutions in case of a heat emergency.

4. Decide where to direct leftover funds from the Vermont Everyone Eats project.

There is \$1,400 remaining in the Everyone Eats funding that the town allocated to N2N. The Genny is currently accepting donations for the new Genny Meals program which offers 10 meals per day from each store, free to the customer. After some discussion Leslie moved, Jeremiah seconded that \$700 be given to the Genny Meals fund, and the remaining \$700 be given to the Community Supper fund at the church. **All in favor - motion passed.**

5. Rethinking, updating and expanding our mutual aid effort

- For the “button” on the town website that directs a person to our form, the members present chose the wording “Neighbor Support
Give Help – Get Help”
- For the beginning of the sign-up form, members present liked the wording “During the coronavirus pandemic we learned the importance of neighbors watching out for one another. We want to continue discovering and strengthening the connections that will help everyone in the community stay connected, healthy and supported.

Do you or does someone you know need help? This form is for you.

Would you like to volunteer or help support others in the community? This form is also for you.

Do you have a medical emergency? Please call 9-1-1.

A mental health crisis? Call 9-8-8

For a fast and good listing of state and local resources, call 2-1-1.”

Leslie will work with Kris & Michelle on updating the information and developing a process for keeping the system functional. We still need to reach out to everyone currently on the list to refresh the information on it.

6. and 7. Plan a special N2N meeting/Community connectedness

This agenda item was intended to explore how the committee could learn more about identifying needs and helping relationships in “neighborhoods” in the town. The discussion shifted focus when Jeremiah said that people just need to meet their neighbors. What can the committee do to help stimulate the growth of community relationships organically, rather than through another top-down town planning process?

At the Block Party (July 3rd) could we have a big map/several maps where people could pin their name, possibly even their photo? (That would require having a polaroid camera on-site.) Using different colored stickers they could self-identify which “neighborhood” they associate themselves with. This could be the beginning of something more organic for helping neighbors meet one another and start talking about their needs and helping one another.

All members present expressed an interest in attending the mental health training that Michelle recently posted on Front Porch Forum. Leslie will send the information about the training to committee members.

8. Check in: Thoughts/Needs/Concerns from representatives present:

- Food Security - Kris - Pantry operations are solid but budget is tight due to high needs
- Business/School/Churches – Kit - the Genny is collaborating with C Village on upcoming events

9. List of Action Items for follow-up:

- Leslie work with Kris & Michelle on updating neighbor support form & processes
- Did Kris give Kim access to the Neighbor support list in Google sheets ?
- Penelope get & read stuff from VT Dept. of Health and NVDA re: awareness of heat illness
- Penelope prepare posts & fliers about heat illness & signing up for CARE list
- Kris ask Tim to research possible cooling centers
- Kris check with Keven G about Energy Committee collaboration on DIY cooling outreach
- Kit? Leslie? look into idea about map & neighborhoods for block party
- Leslie send everyone info about mental health training

10. Adjourn - Kris adjourned the meeting at 8:36.

Submitted by
Leslie Taylor