

Craftsbury Neighbor to Neighbor Committee  
Meeting Minutes 8-3-23

Kris Coville called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m. Present in person at the Craftsbury Library:  
Tim Fritz, Kit Basom, Kim LaRose, Penelope Doherty, Kris Coville, Leslie Taylor

1. Approval of Minutes

Two corrections were made to the minutes of the 4-27-23 meeting, both under Review calendar of N2N assigned tasks:

- Establishing a permanent location for the Craftsbury satellite food pantry, change to “in process”
- Integrating the operations of N2N into the Local Emergency Management Plan, change to “Penelope is currently meeting with the Selectboard...”

**Kim moved, Penelope seconded, acceptance of minutes with these changes.  
Minutes accepted as corrected.**

2. Update on County/Local flood response (Penelope)

- When doing community intake, Penelope got to see how the Web EOC data collector works. Results were a close match with what she and Kris had come up with.
- Orleans County qualified for FEMA assistance. The 2-1-1 registry worked well to create a record of help needed but if people need assistance they have to go to FEMA, either online or in person at a Disaster Recovery Center (DRC), by 9/30/23, unless they want a buy-out of their property. The process is not customizable. The DRC in Barton is open 7 days/week, 8 a.m. - 7 p.m. in Memorial Hall. SBA will be there too, but all applicants must start with FEMA personnel, then be passed to other resources as appropriate. Craftsbury residents can also go to the DRC in Handwick, at the Elementary School.
- Tips for those seeking assistance:
  - People are encouraged to start the application process without delay - they can stop the process at any time if it's not working well for them.
  - Persistence is key. If denied at first application, do not give up.
  - FEMA has a condition of getting flood insurance if people receive assistance from them.
  - The terms of FEMA/SBA loans are very good. Loans should be carefully considered if offered.
  - Go to the DRC in person rather than seeking assistance online. The personnel staffing the DRC are knowledgeable and responsive. The team will go door to door to assess needs.
- Volunteer drivers may be needed to take people to a DRC to apply for assistance.
- Thinking about our Local Emergency Management Plan, lessons learned from this emergency:

- Make sure defined roles are clearly defined & locked in: Roles of taking care of public property such as roads vs. roles having to do with citizen assistance. The gray box training is about defining essential roles in an emergency and making sure those people are not diverted to take care of other needs. For example, Jeremiah has to take care of his role as fire chief and not be pulled away to help in a different capacity during an emergency.
- The system has to be set up for the worst case scenario, then can be scaled back as needed.

3. What are we hearing in the community? Any unmet needs with regard to the flooding?

- The opening of the DRC's has been announced in Front Porch Forum and local newspapers. Some people have been visited in person by neighbors to let them know how to get help.
- Mold problems - in order to get assistance for mold removal, people should get a picture of their home/business before removing materials. Cleaning and sanitizing assistance (CSA) is available, up to \$300 per household for supplies to remove mold.
- The state requires municipalities to remove waste to proper facilities (landfill, recycling, hazardous waste sites) after a flood disaster, but not all municipalities are prepared to do this.

4. Other N2N concerns:

- There will be additional funding of the Everyone Eats program for 4 weeks coming through CAE. The Genny will be able to provide 400 meals from each store for a total of 800 meals.
- At the previous meeting, N2N allocated \$700 of grant funds remaining from Craftsbury food assistance projects to the church for the Community Supper program. Kim requested that this \$700 be allocated instead to the Hardwick Area Food Pantry as the church has received a grant and sufficient donations for Community Suppers, and the funds should go specifically toward food insecurity needs in the town. **Tim moved, Penelope seconded, that \$700 previously allocated to Community Suppers be redirected to the Hardwick Area Food Pantry. Motion approved.**
- Tim did some research on possible cooling center locations for town residents in the event of a heat emergency. The library does not have a heat pump now. Tim is checking with the Craftsbury Outdoor Center if they have the ability to provide a cooling space. Penelope pointed out that the 4C's plans to install a heat pump in their community room and may be able to provide some space for this purpose in the future.

5. Adjourn.

**Penelope moved, Kim seconded, that the meeting be adjourned. Kris adjourned the meeting at 8:36 p.m.**