

## **Craftsbury Neighbor2Neighbor May 7 Meeting – Minutes**

Meeting commenced at 7:02pm. In attendance: Kris Coville, Chair; Deb McKinley, Tim Fritz, Penelope Doherty, members.

### **Discussion**

1. Pantry Update and Sterling College Collaboration. Kris reports the Craftsbury satellite food pantry is finding its rhythm and using the expected learning curve to fine-tune what's actually needed to run the location. The proposed collaboration with Sterling College was not chosen by Rep. Welch's office for earmarks; Senator Sanders' office has asked to look at it. Kris and Penelope will find time to look at a few other funder possibilities.
2. Soup Supper. Soup Supper is currently scheduled through June 30 with funding through FEMA. It could possibly end sooner but Kris will keep it moving until she hears differently. We also hear rumblings of possible funding for another year so who knows? That team is functioning seamlessly.
3. Accounting. Michelle was absent so there were no accounts to review. **Kris will ask Michelle for an accounting before each meeting** so the group can always review its position.
4. Updates from Schools/Churches/Businesses.
  - Kit was not in attendance but told Kris the Genny is so far on track for June 1 opening in Albany.
  - Kris reported the Craftsbury Farmer's Market will open May 22. The market group felt last year's restriction compliance was good, so for this season settled on 2 entrances, masks required, requesting those with symptoms not enter, vendors deciding their own comfort level on touch/no touch, and elimination of the one-way traffic. The Governor's has loosened some restrictions so Kris requested feedback from this group regarding restrictions. Discussion followed regarding preserving restrictions within the market and allowing folks to follow their own comfort zone out in the picnic areas. The Governor's guidance is always subject to whether it's safe in the individual configuration; if need be the market could explore expanding boundaries a tad to provide extra space for distancing; and the Common has enough room for persons to distance as they prefer after shopping. Consensus was that masks within the confines is prudent and reasonable, then allow people to congregate outside the confines as they feel comfortable. The market should continue to monitor case levels in Craftsbury and Orleans and adjust if necessary.
  - Deb shared that East Craftsbury Presbyterian is still video-recording services and welcoming up to 10 persons for that recording. Due to space constraints they will continue that model for now. Church on the Common has been inviting worshipers in. No info on Our Lady of Fatima – we may have that for next meeting.
  - Penelope shared she's on the Vermont Rural Development Council's new statewide Community Resource and Recovery Corps, which meets bi-weekly to share what's happening with pandemic-era activities as the state emerges, and to discuss

challenges and opportunities ahead. She clarified she's not on the group as an N2N representative but seeks thoughts from the group about topics to bring forward, plus will keep her ears open for things relevant to the group. Members thought it exciting Penelope is on the group, and suggests she share with SelectBoard for their thoughts on priorities plus post on Front Porch Forum to seek thoughts from everyone. **Penelope will follow the group's suggestions.**

5. Future Meeting Schedule and Roles/Responsibilities. Kris returned to the discussion that as needs wind down, whether (and when) it might be time for N2N to go more dormant. We don't want to meet to simply update on things that are occurring/being updated elsewhere.

Discussion followed on importance of a) whether all topics we've been facilitating are housed elsewhere (food, shelter, fuel, pickup/delivery, mental health/isolation); b) doing an accounting and celebrating what we've accomplished, and c) an appropriate meeting cycle.

- Group agreed all topics have another house during normal times.
- N2N now has an official role in the town's emergency management structure so at a minimum could meet prior to the annual update of the Local Emergency Operations Plan.
- Quarterly or semi-annual meetings would allow a check in of needs in the community. COVID revealed a lot (food insecurity, issues with working at home, property changing hands, affordable housing needs, possible issues with migrant workers) and it's wise to keep a finger on the pulse as we emerge from this.

Group agreed N2N's role for the next chapter is to be available and keep eyes and ears open. **N2N will transition to semi-dormancy by meeting monthly in June and July, then moving to quarterly: Oct/Jan/April/July.** Kris will continue to manage the volunteer list and will draw on the group's resources as needed, calling interim meetings should a problem arise. Any team member can suggest it's time for a special meeting by contacting Kris.

- **Kris will notify SelectBoard of the group's plan.**
- **Kris or Deb will post on FPF** that while the group is becoming less active, the resource continues and to let us know if someone could use community assistance.
- **Kris will send a thank-you to current volunteers** and ask would they like to continue.
- **Group will discuss a new round of recruiting** at the next meeting.
- Kris will report to SelectBoard as needed using the new standing agenda item Committee Reports

6. Other Business.

- Deb reported some monies remain in the Church's food grant; **Kris will email Deb requesting the balance so Deb can transfer that for qualified expenditures.**

- Tim reported he monitored the chat room throughout for admittance requests; there were none.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15pm.

*(**Bold** indicates a task to be performed)*