

Craftsbury Neighbor2Neighbor Task Force

7/1/21 Meeting Minutes - DRAFT
7pm via Zoom

Meeting was called to order at 7:04pm. In attendance: Kris Coville, Penelope Doherty, Tim Fritz, Susie Houston, Brian Machesney, Deb McKinley

- 1. Discuss and approve minutes of 6/3/21 meeting.** There being no changes, Penelope moved and Brian seconded to accept the minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.
- 2. Food Share Update – discussion:** Number of families served, Everyone Eats status. Kris reported that Hardwick Area Food Pantry toured the Craftsbury site and were very pleased. Craftsbury site is averaging 70 households and Albany 55-60. This is a slight decrease; HAFP shared this is somewhat usual as people plant household gardens in summer. Everyone Eats has ended. A smaller program has been funded through September and starting July 8 it will go out on Thursdays during foodshare and will be focused to the truly food insecure. Church on the Common will possibly pick up Community Supper, date to be announced.

Kris emphasized it will be important to have good data for Town Meeting – and to keep Everyone Eats and FoodShare data separately. The parameters of need will narrow moving forward.

Discussion followed about a “plan C” for the Craftsbury site and how to search in the event our current arrangement is not renewed at end of two years. Decision to revisit at first of year; Tim Fritz volunteered to work on that project.

Kris is keeping in mind the possibility of a COVID surge in the fall. It would not change their service levels, only the method of delivery. The Church is collecting items in anticipation of needs as federal and state assistance lifts.

3. **Accounting Update** – *discussion - review of account: how much left, any earmarks, any payables.* Kris reviewed the handout. Effie has been on leave but Kris will confirm that the General Fund amount rolls over to the new fiscal year. Penelope reported for Kit that the Genny account balance is down to \$40 and change. Kris will use the remaining Presbyterian grant on meat for the freezer.
4. **N2N meetings, forward movement** – *entertain motion to approve transition to quarterly meetings unless/until emergency activation.* Kris reviewed discussions from the two past meetings about transitioning to a “usual times” quarterly meeting schedule after tonight’s meeting, with the next meeting being Oct, then Jan, and so on. Tim moved that we adopt this plan and move to quarterly meetings. Penelope seconded; motion passed unanimously.
5. **N2N tracking/reporting of local COVID data** – *discuss transition from weekly reporting of COVID case data to continued monitoring with reporting only in event of increase; entertain motion and vote.*

Brian raised the question whether it’s time to either cease reporting weekly Craftsbury COVID case data or report it less frequently, reminding everyone of the care we’ve taken to not synthesize data or editorialize, but rather pass on what the State provides. Since he last discussed the idea he’s been looking for variant data but has seen none locally, and he’s also concerned about the impact of freer travel on case rates. And while we have a high vaccination rate, there are others nearby with very low rates. All things to consider.

Susie feels it’s a bit too soon to stop reporting out – many citizens just aren’t ready. Perhaps we should keep it weekly for another month but shorten the message? Perhaps include vaccination rates and info? Brian, Penelope and Kris will work on a shorter message.

6. **N2N official membership structure/composition** – *consider appropriate composition for committee during “usual” times;*

entertain motion and vote on recommendation to be made to Town Selectboard. Kris reviewed the discussion from the last meeting as to possible roles we might want in the “core” group that will meet quarterly to maintain a finger on the pulse during usual times. She stated the importance of having a manageable number in the core committee so that we can meet requirements of a quorum, etc, knowing that particular resources can be invited, accessed, or consulted as best fits a situation. Kris suggests representatives from the following areas: food pantry, mental health, Town Health Officer, church/school/business, Town emergency management group, plus 2 qualified at-large members of the community, equaling 7 members (4 for a quorum). Susie questioned whether we need from church, school *and* business, not just one of those. Penelope shared Kit’s input (given to her earlier) that Kit is confident they would be consulted/pulled in as needed and that an individual seat is not necessary. Discussion followed that the group has a history of seeking out and listening to voices and addressing all needs; Tim pointed out that inclusion of all entities in an official role would quickly be impractical. Group reached consensus that the 7-member composition outlined above is optimal; Penelope moved and Tim seconded that the 7-member composition be accepted and that Kris recommend same to Selectboard for official approval and appointments. Discussion followed regarding input for appointments and that individuals from the community should be allowed to express interest in or apply for appointment. Motion carried unanimously.

7. **Emergency Management Plan Update** – any news? *Discussion*
Penelope reported that dates circulated for a first meeting have come and gone, and that Rudy Chase said he would check with Farley about him moving forward with finding a date – she’s had a very busy June.
8. **Schools/Churches/Businesses** – any updates? *Discussion.*
Penelope provided Kit’s business report: “Summer is back and things are busy in town! The Albany store opened and has been

very well received. Of course it needs continued support (Penelope interjected a few recommendations here, such as the maple milk shake and buffalo chicken dip). Kris reported Farmer's Market attendance has been great and more events are coming: Kids' Market, Blueberry Fest, and Old Home Day 100yr celebration. Discussion followed re Neighbor2Neighbor participating in the parade. Kris will check with Avril, Jake Lester, other options for a banner to carry.

9. **Debrief/review of N2N accomplishments and takeaways** –
Discussion. Kris wanted to acknowledge the great work of this committee. It was a big, crazy time and we met it with our best effort, standing up several initiatives that will go beyond the pandemic. We also provided a mutual aid model for other towns. It's important that we recognize this, that we keep our eyes/ears open for needs in the community, and remember that anyone at any time can say "it's time for a meeting – we're needed."
10. **Other Business.** There being no other business, meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.