

Boxborough Well-Being Committee
Meeting Minutes: November 13, 2013

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 A. M.

Attendees

Rev. Susie Allen, Gail Kessler-Walsh, Liz Markiewicz, Chief Warren Ryder, Selina Shaw, Kate Smyers, Channing Wagg, Rev. Cindy Worthington-Berry

Chair: Elizabeth Markiewicz

Items distributed:

1. Minutes of October 16, 2013 meeting,
2. Material e-mailed earlier by Jim Gorman,
3. A re-draft of Jim Gorman's Statement of Purpose (renamed "The Charter")

OLD BUSINESS:

1. The minutes of the October 16 meeting were accepted with minor corrections.
2. Several aspects of The Charter were discussed, including but not limited to:
 - a. Composition of the membership,
 - b. "Ex officio" vs. non ex-officio status,
 - c. Determination of "at-Large" members for community representation purposes.

The final version will be distributed via e-mail by Liz Markiewicz and presented to the Board of Selectmen Monday, November 18. The resulting document is included in these minutes by reference.

NEW BUSINESS

Gail Kessler-Walsh gave a preliminary report on a project whereby she is recording all student counseling contacts and time involved including referrals to professional care providers. She will refine the information to include the underlying issues involved.

The discussion included a question on whether domestic abuse was involved and Chief Ryder reported that incidents of same had declined due, he thought to early intervention by the police department in concert with DVAP. He and Gail will confer further.

Gail elaborated further that her student "clients," were not necessarily poor, i.e., were from economically disadvantaged families, but were not easily connected to a professional because of issues with health insurance, e.g., the Plan didn't cover the counseling needed, the provider didn't accept the particular carrier's plan, etc. The danger was that no treatment could lead to self-medication.

Rev. Worthington-Berry reported that "...three contacts for assistance were people calling the church directly...one of the requests, which was for help with rent, Laura Ducharme was not able to provide any funds. A Friend in Need DID provide some assistance, but meanwhile informed me that their funds are low and so they are helping people less or, in some cases, not at all. I am in the process of applying for a SAGE grant, but haven't finished that process."

Channing commented briefly on Acton Food Pantry usage by Boxborough residents and was asked to clarify the nature of the counts.

The next meeting date was set for Wednesday, December 18 at 9:00 a. m.

Respectfully submitted,
Channing Wagg