

Boxborough Well-Being Committee  
Meeting Minutes: December 18, 2013

The meeting was called to order at 9:03 A. M.

Attendees

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

Chair: Elizabeth Markiewicz

Secretary: Channing Wagg

Items distributed

1. Agenda:
2. Minutes of November 13, 2013 meeting,
3. Well-Being Committee Charter approved by the Board of Selectmen on November 18, 2013,
4. Boxborough Police Department (BPD) Policy & Procedure No. 1.16, Interacting with the Mentally III.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. The minutes of the November 13 meeting were approved as submitted.
2. Liz Markiewicz opened a discussion about the Charter. Chief Ryder commented on the BPD's protocols and practices. He pointed out that violent behavior when encountered had to be handled in accordance with established practice regardless of the cause.
  - a. A discussion ensued about the need for mental health services on the part of various Boxborough resident constituencies, including but not limited to, individuals, children. The question was raised whether mental health should be referenced in the Charter.
  - b. Channing Wagg raised the question of reinstating the Eliot Clinic funding under contract for services. The issue was then included in a general discussion which ensued.
  - c. There was an in-depth discussion of the possible addition of a social worker to the town staff. Various aspects of this were raised including the role of such a position, credentials, the amount of time required and the funding involved.
    - i. A key question became "what do we want this person to do?"
    - ii. Gail Kessler-Walsh opined that a social worker would be a big help in counseling families of Blanchard students who are "experiencing difficulties."
    - iii. The possibility of grant funding was discussed.
  - d. A broader discussion of mental health needs and support ensued with services from Eliot Clinic and First Connections.

- e. Jim Gorman suggested that an article be drafted as a place holder for the upcoming annual town meeting warrant with more definitive information to come.
  3. A number of action items were identified and individuals assigned to fulfill them.
    - a. Rev. Allen will contact Emerson Hospital's Social Services Department to obtain available information on social worker grant monies available,
    - b. Liz Markeiewicz will contact the Acton-Boxborough United Way for the same purpose,
    - c. Liz Markiewicz and Jim Gorman will draft a place holder article for the above referenced warrant,
    - d. Liz Markeiwicz will obtain information about Eliot Clinic and First Connections funding,
    - e. Chief Ryder will distribute information on social worker job duties, i.e. differentiating between a case worker and a referral worker.
  4. There was a brief up-date on the Task Force.
  5. The next meeting was scheduled for January 22, 2014.
- The meeting adjourned at 10:03 a. m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Channing Wagg