

Boxborough Well-Being Committee
Meeting Minutes: February 26, 2014

The meeting was called to order at 9:04 A. M.

Attendees

Rev. Susie Allen, Laura Arsenault, Pamela Follett, M.D., Jim Gorman, Gail Kessler-Walsh, Liz Markiewicz, Starr Miyata, Selina Shaw, Kate Smyers, Channing Wagg, Rev. Cindy Worthington-Berry

Chair: Elizabeth Markiewicz

Secretary: Channing Wagg

Items distributed

1. Social Worker Position Specification Matrix
2. Abbreviated Data Sheet Blanchard School.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. The minutes of the January 29 meeting were approved.
2. Liz Markiewicz opened a discussion about the administrative aspects of establishing social worker services for the town on a part-time basis. This included but was not limited to preparation of the warrant article and the configuration of the position.
 - a. Liz presented a “social worker services matrix” and reviewed the various aspects of the three templates included in it as well as costing of same,
 - b. A lengthy discussion ensued.
3. Gail Kessler-Walsh presented data about the number of counseling sessions she recorded at the Blanchard School between October 15, 2014 and February 25, 2014. Parsing of the figures led to a group consensus that perhaps as many as 15% of children enrolled in the school require attention for emotional-related issues.
 - a. Further discussion ensued about the nature of the expertise and services needed and it was the consensus of the group that a person with a LIC / MSW with appropriate experience was the place to “start” on this project,
 - b. Further discussion ensued on the number of hours required and rate of pay needed to attract and hold such a credentialed person (eight to 12 hours and \$35 to \$50 / per hour such that maximum, aggregate funding of \$25,000 would probably be necessary.
 - 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. It was decided that the position should be titled “Community Service Coordinator and presented as a pilot program.

4. There was a brief discussion of needed actions preliminary to beginning the warrant article process, including informing various town committees such as the Boxborough Leadership Forum.
5. Liz Markiewicz will contact Chief Ryder for data indicating social services needs to support the article presentation on the floor of ATM.
6. The next regularly scheduled meeting was set for March 12 and a planning meeting for the presentation at ATM was set for March 5, at 9:00 a. m. in both cases.

The meeting adjourned at 10:09 a. m.

Respectfully submitted,
Channing Wagg