

Well-Being Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
January 27, 2021

Members Present: Pam Follett, Liz Markiewicz, Al Murphy, Channing Wagg, Mary Pavlik

Others Present: Karen Argento (United Way board member and new liaison to Wellbeing)

Meeting was held via Zoom due to ongoing COVID emergency. The meeting was called to order via roll call vote: Pam Follet, aye, Channing Wagg, aye, Mary Pavlik, aye; Al Murphy, aye; Liz Markiewicz, aye

Minutes from the January 12 2021 were approved by roll call vote, Pam Follet, aye, Channing Wagg, aye, Mary Pavlik, aye; Al Murphy, aye; Liz Markiewicz, aye

Liz Markiewicz introduced Karen Argento as the new liaison from AB United Way.

Liz provided an update on the applications for the 25 hr Community Services Coordinator posting. The applications close January 29 and there are presently two applicants. Committee members expressed hope for a qualified candidate despite the apparent low number of applicants so far.

Discussion centered around drafting of a letter and memo to go to the Select Board proposing an increase from 25 to 40 hours week for the Community Services Coordinator position.

Liz presented the data from surrounding similar towns regarding position resources in the COA/CSC area. Al Murphy added population data for easy ratio comparison between towns. Population data will be checked and updated by Channing Wagg. Boxborough lagged behind all of the towns compared even with the position filled. It was agreed that this data would help illuminate the need for increased hours.

Discussion centered around crafting a redraft of the details to support the increased hours, including:

- Highlighting the Communication elements which are a high priority for the Select Board this year. This position has been the central point of communication for the town, between residents and boards, and between boards and communities themselves. It is also a position that can maintain confidentiality while remaining the eyes and ears of the community.

- Redrafting to Accessing Town Resources as a category, with a higher priority on the list as well. Include networking collaborations and assisting committees to understand the barriers to resources that individuals face (i.e. The CS coordinator attending Affordable Housing meetings to personalize the challenges to apply and follow through so methods can be approved)

- Al Murphy will begin the process of tightening up and modifying the draft and passing it along to Mary Pavlik. That revised draft will be sent to committee members before the next meeting, where future comments/changes will be discussed.

Mary Pavlik discussed the challenges with the fuel assistance program this year and detailed her conversation with Rob McNeece, the volunteer who has overseen the program since 2006. Rob had provided data for the last few years to the committee. Surprisingly, there were no additional applications for fuel assistance this year although all agreed there must be increased need. A

combination of an absence of a Community Services coordinator with COVID was assumed to be the issue. This was another example of the need for this position, as oversight to this important resource.

The letter and documents, and other details supporting the need for a full time Community Services Coordinator will be presented at the **Select Board meeting on February 22<sup>nd</sup>**.

**Next meeting of Well-Being: Feb 16<sup>th</sup>, @8:15** to approve the letter and accompanying documents.

Karen Argento agreed to contact AB United Way to find out any additional information about community needs, including any food scarcity and fuel assistance data.

Liz stated that there were additional AB United Way signs in the Town Hall lobby if anyone was interested. Mary Pavlik will pick up at least one for the church grounds.

Liz agreed to keep the committee members updated with the CSC applications and interviews.

Meeting was adjourned via roll all vote: Pam Follet, aye, Channing Wagg, aye, Mary Pavlik, aye; Al Murphy, aye; Liz Markiewicz, aye

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Pavlik