

**Town of Barnstable  
Human Services Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, February 13, 2018**

**Names in BOLD indicate action items.**

**Present:**

Scott Fitzgerald, chair; Steven Xiarhos, Robin Gunderson, Deb Krau, Heidi Nelson (recorder), and Heather Stassel

**Absent:**

Meghan Mort, Stacie Peugh and Jen Cullum, Town Council Liaison

**Guests:**

Susan Loucks, Neighborhood Falmouth

**Order:**

The meeting came to order at 5:00 p.m.

**Minutes**

The minutes of the January 9, 2018 meeting were unanimously approved as written (Krau motion, Stassel second).

**Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**Discussion**

Deb introduced Susan Loucks, Executive Director of Neighborhood Falmouth. Due to the aging demographic on Cape Cod, the issue of 'aging in place' is significant here. Deb learned of Neighborhood Falmouth through her involvement with the Greater Hyannis Civic Association, and that NF is a leader on the Cape on this issue.

Susan reported to the group that NF has been in existence since 2009, and there are other groups like NF in the area, namely Nauset Neighbors, and programs at various stages of development on Marthas Vineyard, Bourne, Centerville and Dennis/Yarmouth. Susan said that there are about 200 organizations across the country. Groups like NF provide non-medical services and are largely volunteer operated; NF has only two staff. Services provided include rides to the grocery store and medical appointments and other functions; fixing things around the house that do not require a paid professional; and activities like lunch out. Transportation is the biggest need on the Cape.

A one-year membership is \$600, 10% of NF membership is on a scholarship, and there is no cap on services provided. Membership fees cover about 10% of the total cost, the remainder is funded by grants. The total budget is \$160,000 per year. There are about 130 members currently, and the average age is 86. There is a waiting list for membership, because a sufficient

number of volunteers need to be recruited to cover the needs as the membership grows. Many of the members are affiliated with senior centers.

At the beginning, the NF group planned to have a two-year start-up phase, and fund-raises through family foundations and individual donations. There is a 'village' organization based in Boston and Susan attends their meetings.

Her advice on the first step in planning a program is to form a working group.

### Next Steps

Our next meeting is on March 13. Scott suggested that we spend the meeting reviewing the information we have gathered so far.

Heidi will distribute the minutes on the following topics, so that we can refresh our thinking:

Substance Use Disorder Recovery  
Mental Health First Aid  
Food Insecurity  
Veterans Services  
Aging in Place

### Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Heidi Nelson  
Duffy Health Center and Secretary to Committee

**The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, March 13, 2018 at 5:00 p.m.**