



Human Services Committee
367 Main Street, Hyannis, MA
May 11, 2021
4:30pm

MEETING MINUTES

I. BUSINESS

A. Roll Call:

Members present: Robin Gunderson; Carlos Barbosa; Scott Fitzgerald (Chair) Meaghan Mort
Absent: Scott Fitzgerald; Councilor Paul Hebert (liaison)

Administrator Cynthia Lovell took roll call:

Robin Gunderson	here
Carlos Barbosa	here
Meaghan Mort	here
Representative Stephen Xiarhos	here

Chair of the Committee asked for any Public Comment, seeing none on the Zoom screen, the Chair of the Committee asked for a motion to approve the meeting minutes of April 13, 2021. There was a motion made by Carlos Barbosa, this was seconded by Robin Gunderson. A Roll Call vote was taken by Administrator of the Town Council

Robin Gunderson	yes
Carlos Barbosa	yes
Meaghan Mort	yes

The meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

- Online Resources from Committee Members for Web Page

The Committee has offered many links and resources to be put on their web page, There is also communications being put on the Town's media outlets as well to get the word out about services being offered during Covid, and beyond Covid. Representative Xiarhos explained that there are fewer and fewer people coming for the cases of food at the High School being given out. Currently as of tonight's meeting there was over 500 cases of food in a refrigerated truck at the High School that no one has taken. This Saturday there will be another 1000 cases delivered. Most of the issue is the refrigeration, there are not a lot of places that can take cases of food and store them. Sandwich comes and takes 80 cases, and there are other Towns that come and get cases and spread it through their community. If you have a Church group or anyone that is need or just wants food come and get it.

Meaghan echoed that the refrigeration is a real problem, she wished there was a way to donate gift cards to grocery stores, there is a need for food, but if people were to have gift cards to the stores, then they could get what they need. If you were to give the cases of food to the grocery stores, and then provide the gift cards to purchase what they need and what they can fit, so if a gift card is given out could also stretch over two shopping times. Representative Xiarhos stated the program is coming to an end, and he is unsure what it may morph into. There has always been plenty of food, so if we could get the word out for this Thursday come and get your food, and then on Saturday for anyone else that needs it. Ms. Gunderson asked if the local pastors of the churches can

come and get cases and distribute to their congregation or use it at their times of worships. Ms. Gunderson thanked Representative Xiarhos and his team of volunteers that have distributed these cases of food over the last 18 months. Representative Xiarhos asked if anyone knew of Jenny Wheeler from Hyannis (a local chef) (Faith Kitchen) who has made meals at Cape Grenough in Yarmouth and then organized delivery to those that needed it, and is now going to the Riverway Restaurant to rent out the kitchen space to make what you want and deliver the food. Jenny has also done cooking classes and provided lap top to those who wanted to learn to cook. Ms. Gunderson asked the Committee members to get the links of these individuals and then programs offered. Ms. Gunderson also wanted a link for housing resources to be listed. Meaghan Mort would like to ask the Committee members to write a letter of support for the proposed ADU Bylaws that are in front of the Planning Board, and then back to the Town Council for consideration and a final vote. Ms. Gunderson asked Meaghan to make the motion: Meaghan made the motion to write a letter of support for the ADU Bylaws by the Cape Cod Commission as written and proposed. This motion was seconded by Carlos Barbosa. A Roll Call vote was taken by Administrator Cynthia Lovell

Representative Xiarhos yes
Robin Gunderson yes
Carlos Barbosa yes
Meaghan Mort yes

Representative Xiarhos would also like to see a link for our Veterans; there are so many services for our Veterans that many do not know about. Ms. Gunderson asked all the Committee members to please forward all the resource links that need to be on the web page for our residents to use.

Carlos wanted to let everyone know that in our immigrant community the vaccination has exceeded 3,000 fully vaccinated. Representative Xiarhos also said that when people come to get their vaccination give them a food box. Carlos will also provide links for our immigrant community for resources.

Meaghan would like to know if there is anyone that goes into the school systems and gathers information on our homeless students in Barnstable. Ms. Gunderson suggested that Meaghan reach out to Councilor Paul Hebert for that information.

Ms. Gunderson would like to see a recovery link or a mental health link, Meaghan would also like to know if anyone in the Health Department has reached out to Gosnold and tried to vaccinate that population of vulnerable individuals.

Carlos was asking about finding workers for our business's here. There are a lot of people looking for people to hire, is there anything we are doing in Barnstable. Representative Xiarhos said Plymouth is doing a job fair, so possibility of doing that in Barnstable. Meaghan wanted to mention that finding works for the summer when the conditions of working has not changed, the kitchen's here reach 140 degrees in the summer, are there any incentives for someone to return to this type of work when the conditions are the same or worse, there should be something put in place to protect these workers in such tight working areas without masks or proper ventilation, who wants to return to those jobs?

- Action Planning on Committee Initiatives

1. Committee members want to support the ADU
2. Committee members will grow the links provided to the residents on their web page
3. Representative Xiarhos will look into job fairs for Barnstable and get the information for Jenny Wheelers programs
4. Meaghan is going to provide information on tiny homes.
5. Invite the Regional Transit Authority to the next meeting to discuss transportation
6. Invite the Hyannis, or Cape Cod Chamber to attend our meetings.

- Committee Membership

The Town Council Appointments Committee continues to advertise any vacancies that occur on the Appointments Committee web page as well as on the Barnstable Bulletin as well as the Town of Barnstable web page. Committee members will also continue to recruit.

Ms. Gunderson seeing no further business or discussion asked for a motion to adjourn; Meaghan Mort made the motion to adjourn, this was seconded by Carlos Barbosa. A Roll call vote was taken by Administrator Cynthia Lovell;

Representative Xiarhos yes

Robin Gunderson yes

Carlos Barbosa yes

Meaghan Mort yes

ADJOURN: 5:17pm

NEXT MEETING: TBD