



Human Services Committee
367 Main Street, Hyannis, MA
February 11, 2025
5:30pm

Meeting Minutes

I. BUSINESS

A. Roll Call: Chair Cheryl Powell took roll call: The Governor's office protocol for remote participation due to Covid restrictions is no longer in effect therefore this meeting was held in the Selectmen's Conference Room.

Members present: Cheryl Powell (Chair); Suzanne Welch, Wendy Crocker (5:44 PM), Missi Kay, Kimberly Crocker-Crowther and Kevin Matthews

Members absent: Rep. Steven Xiarhos

I. TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION:

- Roll Call
- Discuss report to be given to Town Council
- Approval of January 2024 Meeting Minutes
- Hybrid Meeting Schedule
- Information gathering and cataloging.
- Roles and reports
- Guest speaker (s) and planning
- Public Comment
- Other items not reasonably anticipated by the Chair.
- Adjourn

Chair of Committee Cheryl Powell opened the meeting at 5:30pm and did a Roll Call of members present. (See above) The meeting began with a confirmation of quorum and instructions for participation. Town Liaison Bette Ludke was in attendance as well as Patrick Downey (Hopeful Outreach of Cape Cod.) Please note: This meeting was moved to the Planning Department Conference Room as the LCPC (Local Comprehensive Planning Commission) was holding their meeting in the Selectmen's Conference Room where we routinely meet.

Chair of Committee started the meeting by announcing "In accordance with Massachusetts General Laws informed that the meeting would be replayed on Xfinity Channel 8 and HD Channel 107". It was also mentioned that the meeting would be accessible on the government access channel and video on demand archives on the Town of Barnstable website.

Chair of Committee opened the meeting with a discussion re: the Town Council does not seem to take the Human Services Committee seriously. At the last LCPC meeting the topic of the need to have a Human Services Department created was discussed, as well as, supported. Subsequently, Chair of Committee Powell received a follow up call informing her that, regardless of the support received, a Town established Human Services Department is a concept which will not come to fruition. The Town

does not want to expend any funding for this type of department.

As a result of having to relocate to the Planning Department Conference Room, Chair of Committee Powell cancelled the guests (HACK etc.) who had been invited to this meeting but will be re-scheduled for a later date. The next discussion involved the current Opioid Committee which has oversight of the Opioid state funded grant. Consensus of the Human Services committee members is that it would be incredibly beneficial for both Committees to work in collaboration. It was mentioned that originally the Opioid Committee came under the purview of the Human Services Committee. Committee member Crocker-Crowther stated that there are two individuals (addiction specialists) from Baycore that have offered to serve on the Opioid Committee. Chair Powell mentioned that she would be interested in being a part of that Committee too. There is some concern as to how the grant funding is being awarded, i.e. Parents Helping Parents-a very solid group initially had no choice but self-fund themselves. They have finally become successful in receiving some Opioid grant funding.

Re: the Human Services Proposal for Town Council review/consideration. Town Liaison Ludke informed the Committee that the Town has stated many times that they will “look at it when it comes before us.” Committee Chair Powell feels that a Proposal subcommittee needs to be created immediately so that we have a document to present to the Council ASAP. Committee member Mathews thinks it should be crafted like a map. It was agreed the Subcommittee members will be Cheryl Powell, Kevin Mathews and Wendy Crocker. Only having three (3) members will ensure that no Open Meeting laws will be violated. All committed to having a draft proposal available for our Committee to review at the next meeting in March. Committee member Welsh requested that Elder Services needs be addressed in the document. Lastly, Town Liaison Ludke stated that there is a significant amount of energy for the Committee on Committees to review all the current committees for possible elimination/consolidation etc.

The meeting then moved forward with addressing the remaining agenda items; the January meeting minutes were approved as submitted with Chair of Committee member Powell making the motion which was seconded by Committee member Crocker. The Hybrid Meeting item still needs to be discussed. Next, Cheryl reported that there is no update to the Information gathering and cataloging item at this time. Patrick Downey (Guest) stated that the Council of Churches meets every week to help the homeless.

As there was no public comment, a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:35 PM was made by Suzanne Welsh and seconded by Kevin Matthews.

Next Meeting: March 11, 2025.

