



**Human Services Committee**  
**367 Main Street, Hyannis, MA**  
**, November 12, 2024**  
**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Cheryl Powell took roll call: The Governor's office protocol for remote participation due to Covid restrictions is no longer in effect therefore this meeting was held in the Selectmen's Conference Room.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, Sheree Kay (Missi), and Kevin Matthews

**Members absent:** Rep. Steven Xiarhos and Kimberly Crocker-Crowther

**I. TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION:**

- Roll Call
- Discuss report to be given to Town Council
- Approval of July 2024, August 2024 and September 2024 Meeting Minutes
- 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 5:35pm and did a Roll Call of members present. (See above) The meeting began with a confirmation of quorum and instructions for participation. She also introduced and welcomed Kevin Matthews as the newest Committee member.

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 distributed the Town issued Human Services Committee purview to all Committee members and then read it aloud. Committee Member Welch gave an update on the duck hunting activities along Hucking Neck Road and Shallow Pond Road. She has met with Town officials to discuss the potential harm to all residents regarding the rain of pellets falling on residential properties in that area. She was told that the duck hunting season begins on September 1, 2024, and concludes on January 31, 2025. During these five months residents should wear hunters' orange at all times when outside. However, she was successful in getting the Town to post a "No Hunting from This Island"

sign.

Chair of Committee then introduced guest Patrick Downey, founder of Hopeful Outreach of Cape Cod. This is a start-up non-profit (501C3 received in February 2024) run by Mr. Downey which provides assistance to homeless and people with addition issues. They are currently sponsoring unhoused individuals for Christmas by creating and distributing care packages. Donations are very welcomed, but storage continues to be problematic. At this time their main contact information source is Facebook, but they are hoping to expand that soon. Committee Member Matthews asked Mr. Downey “how do you approach a homeless person?” Patrick responded with a very comprehensive explanation of his approach, acknowledging that everyone is different and the importance of keeping that in mind when moving forward. He also stated that there were 568 homeless individuals counted last year and that number has already increased by 20% this year. Committee Member Matthews would like to see one agency oversee all resources. Mr. Downey supports having as many agencies as possible available to help--primarily with housing vouchers and transportation options. Housing is a critical issue as there is no longer Women’s or Men’s transitional housing on Cape Cod. Committee member Crocker feels the people experiencing homelessness and addiction issues need the basics to start to rebuild their lives (Maslow’s hierarchy of needs.) There is funding available for sober living and addiction but much less for homelessness. The Chair of Committee is still on track for submitting her update to the Town Council by the end of December 2024. Committee Member Welsch made a motion to approve the July, August and September Meeting minutes as submitted and it was seconded by Committee Member Crocker.

As there was no public comment a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:18 PM was made by Wendy Crocker and seconded by Suzanne Welch.

**Next Meeting: December 10, 2024**