

TOWN OF RICHMOND, RHODE ISLAND
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Town of Richmond Wellness Committee
Zoom Virtual Meeting
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, January 20, 2022 | 6:00 PM

In Attendance: Pamela A. Rohland (Chair), Thea Brennan (Vice Chair), Daniel Fitzgerald (Clerk), Alison Croke, Gary W. Kowalewski, Julie Leusner, Jessica Wolke, Adrienne Graffius, Chief Elwood M. Johnson, Jr., and Dr. Robert W. Harrison Jr.

Excused: Laura Kenyon

1. Call to Order

- Pamela Rohland called the meeting to order at 6:02pm

2. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

3. Moment of Silence

4. Roll Call

5. Old Business - Approval of January 5, 2022 Meeting Minutes

- Gary Kowalewski made a motion to approve the January 5, 2022 Meetings Minutes. Thea Brennan seconded the motion. All were in favor.

6. New Business

Please Note in Accordance with Section 42-46-6 (b) the Committee May Review, Discuss and/or take Action on the following items

- **The Data Workgroup** gave a report on their preliminary work since the last meeting
 - Julie Leusner gave a report on behalf of the Subcommittee with the following information. The group created a running spreadsheet of current data they have access to and have emails out to a variety of other organizations to request more. Julie summarized some of the current themes of the finding into "wants and needs":
 - **Wants:**
 - Outdoor facilities, community gardens, playgrounds
 - More comprehensive services for Senior Citizens
 - Community center - swimming pool, spaces to meet, space for additional services
 - New library, village style shopping center, etc.
 - Volunteer opportunities
 - **Needs:**
 - Solutions to food insecurity

- Increased bus service / public transportation
 - Affordable housing
 - Additional mental health
 - Access to oral healthcare, mental healthcare for children and teen
 - Accessible space for Seniors Citizens
- The **Existing Facilities/Services Workgroup** gave a report on their preliminary work since the last weeking:
 - Jessica Wolke gave an update about current services about mental health providers. While there are providers who service Richmond such as Wood River Health Services, no Richmond based providers were identified. The group created a list of known mental health providers in surrounding towns.
 - Rob Harrison provided an update about dental, medical, and chiropractic care in the area. There were several who serve Richmond Residents but very few located within Richmond.
 - Thea Brennan gave an update about services related to substance use. There were limited Richmond based services such as Strong Arms Support Group and an AA group but several others in surrounding areas.
 - Gary Kowalewski updated the group about a conversation he had with the Human Resources Department in Coventry after they recently built a new community center to learn about their process. In Coventry they combined a new police department with the community center, this was funded through a variety of sources. They offer a variety of services such as fitness classes, transportation, culinary classes, medical providers, food bank, community garden, and more.
 - Based on the above findings, the Committee discussed next steps/directions for working groups regarding Town of Richmond wellness services and wellness needs.
 - The Data Workgroup discussed the intention of collecting additional information to give a more thorough update around current needs and wants at the next meeting.
 - The Current Facilities/Services Workgroup discussed looking for what providers take medicaid and who are taking new clients before the next meeting to better understand true access to care in Richmond.
 - Julie Leusner requested that we invite someone from the Coventry Community Center to discuss their process and for the Committee to ask questions. Pamela Rohland recommended that we invite them for the February 17th meeting.

7. Adjournment

- Alison Croke made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:08. Rob Harrison seconded the motion. All were in favor.
- Next Meetings:
 - February 2 and February 17, 2022 at 6pm
 - March 3rd and March 16, 2022 at 6pm