

Minutes Hope Coalition 3-04-24

Hope Coalition
297 Vine Street
Berlin Vermont
March 4, 2024

6 in person attending- Zoom available

Meeting started 6:04 pm

Case status

103 houses completed by Hope Coalition

17 houses in re-build process

19 cases out for assessment

403 cases closed by phone-fixed or no further follow up required

Report on work teams

MSD- Mennonite Team of 4 coming March 19-27

Also have teams coming in April 8th and June 14-duration pending

MDS plans to have rotating coverage throughout the summer months spanning mid June to mid July.

Team Rubicon has volunteered to come in and build a temporary wall in the upstairs sanctuary at the former Journey Fellowship Building in Plainfield which will be used to house the teams.

Break a Difference is exploring sending a large group-35-40 people for 1 week in May. Break a Difference focuses on offering meaningful experiences for college students during the break period. They will be meeting with Dan and Ty this week to see if Hope might be a good fit for a group this year.

There was also a discussion of how far will Hope Coalition define the scope of home rebuild before a house is "done". FEMA defines done as: Safe, Functional, Habitable, Working bath, Kitchen with working sink and one cabinet, Electric, Water, and Heat. This needs to be clear so that expectations between clients, work teams, assessors, and volunteers are all the same. Copy of In and Out of scope work to be included in the assessment package.

A second disaster declaration for FEMA was given for the December flooding, but will only apply to public assistance, not any private homes or funding.

Dan is working with VOAD (Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters) to develop systems in the state that will hopefully develop a better process for the organization of Long Term Recovery Groups and other local volunteer groups to assist in local disasters in the future.

Jon Kilian arrived and the Treasurer's Report was submitted and accepted.

Jon reported that he is still working on the UnMet Needs Table development and not ready to give a report on the status as yet.

FEMA estimates there are 700 homes that need to be rebuilt in the state of Vermont.

Dan has been in contact with STORMWISE-a company that trains community leaders in disaster training. Some of their expertise is in-Community Engagement, Needs Acquisition, Logistics Optimization, Stages Assessment Training, Program Management Systems Development, Program Management Systems Training and Systems Monitoring. Funds were approved to bring a team to Vermont for a training session in April.

Break a Difference had said they often get their tools from TOOL BANK. Tools are “rented for a percentage of tool cost per week- by small or large trailer.. Ken mentioned he had also looked into this and the percentage fee was often waived in cases of disasters. Something to look into for large work groups coming in for the summer season.

Warehouse update. The State of Vermont has a 3,000 sq ft warehouse space for Hope in East Barre. Ty pointed out that this is less space than the gym we are currently using. Just to keep this in mind when we consider what we order in bulk for use/storage.

Dan said Lowes and Home Depot have \$15,000 grants that they issue in the form of gift cards that we can apply for, but also to keep in mind the closest stores are more than an hours drive in each direction. It also may be more difficult to track spending with gift cards unless there is a designated buyer.

Dan also has applied for another grant with the Vermont Community Foundation for material funding.

We still do not have any Case Managers from CAPSTONE although they have said they hired someone they may assign to Hope once they train them.

Dan is working with Americorp/Vista on a cost share program to see if we can hire a case manager directly for Hope Coalition. We also have 4 college interns coming this summer through the South Baptist Relief for 6 weeks to assist.

There was no other business.

The meeting was adjourned at 745pm

NEXT MEETING

Monday April 1, 2024-6pm

Hope Coalition

297 VINE ST

Berlin Vt