

Hope Coalition Minutes
April 1, 2024

297 Vine Street
Berlin VT

Meeting opened 6:04 pm

Old Business-

Treasurer's Report Submitted and accepted

Report of March 2024 -Report has been posted on Hope Coalition website- Pat read the report for review and it was accepted.

Report on Un-Met Needs Table- Jon Kilian reported no progress on this.

A meeting has been set on April 9th, 10am for the Executive Board to review how finances -accounting -Un-Needs table are all required to be up and running to offer Hope Coalition flood victims access to all available financial aid opportunities. How can we work together to accomplish this goal?

Dan also noted it has come to his attention that Efficiency Vermont's verbal agreement to repay contractors who worked with Hope Coalition and flood victims to front the money for HVAC systems have not been repaid in a timely manner, and are now carrying the burden of this debt. Ty will look into this. It may be something we need to address in the future.

House figures-

107 homes completed

3 files for assessments

18 files out for site assessment

25 files scheduled for rebuild

636 cases closed

Dan would like a solid 50 home rebuilds slated for the summer months.

The State of Vermont implemented a reverse 211 call to check in with those impacted by the flood and are compiling information on those that still need assistance for distribution to Long Term Recovery Groups.

Due to the nature of the flood impact we have had many calls for excavation work, road repair, sinkholes, retaining walls, water diversion etc. With the number of these requests and the type of expertise and equipment required it was decided to out-source some of these requests. There are some major displacement jobs we will not be able to address, we will work with homeowners and Rock Solid Excavation to review and repair where feasible. A contract for work is pending.

Break a Difference (college group) will be coming to Vermont in two short stays. They will take care of their own transportation and accommodations and food. We will need to have work sites, supervision, and materials available for non-skilled projects. The date pairs are May 16 & 17 and May 20 & 21st. Approximately 40 people in each group. Tentative group leaders- Dan, Ty, Prim, Kevin and Dave

Report on Warehouse Space- The State has let this slide and opportunities to get grants for truckloads of materials shipped in have now passed because we were unable to show the storage and security for the material. After meeting with the State and other LTRG Dan said this may not have worked for this year since other groups are not far enough along to plan for building on a large scale. We will work with RK Miles to project our needs for the summer months so we do not run short for project materials.

Team Rubicon is coming April 20th to work on building a wall at the former Journey Fellowship in Plainfield to be used to house up to 50 volunteer workers this summer. We will also be bringing in a shower trailer. Thoughts for how they might be used for another short term project in the area are welcome.

The State asked about housing MCCC during the summer. Dan asked Ty and Don if there was a firm timeline from the hospital on the turnover of the building and there is not at this time. Dan had suggested to the state some other low cost alternatives they might explore.

MDS (Mennonites) will be rotating teams into Plainfield through the summer. The expectation is 50 people at any one time.

David Murphy Presents a list of VIM Teams for the summer being housed at MacKenzie House in Riverton through UMCOR. His impression was they were working with Dan. When Dan last spoke with UMCOR he was told they planned to work in the NorthEast Kingdom this summer. This will need to be clarified.

Dates for MacKenzie House

June 15-22nd Ruhl's Team-Manheim PA -20 skilled labor

June 23-29th Chapel Hill WV UMC Mission Team- 15-20 mixed youth and adult-mixed skills

July 14-20th-Gales Ferry CT Mission Team-20+ some experience

July 21-29th-Howell from Indiana-20-25 very experienced professional trades

Marcy and Tim Schaefer arrive May 1st and will stay for 6 months. Working in partnership with UMCOR.

Dan said Hope should have 50 homes for rebuilding and the other LTRGs in the state have indicated a total of another 50.

STORMWISE visited but has not submitted a proposal as yet. Dan thought Hope was in a good position to go through the summer without additional guidance. He did say the Long Term Recovery Groups met this morning and indicated they did not want direction from the State,

Capstone and VOAD. We need to stay in contact with the other groups to coordinate if we have work teams with extra time or resources that might be utilized. Communication between the groups is key.

There is a VOAD conference in May. Dan asked if we wanted to pay (\$2,000) to send him for a week. After a review of our existing cases, our incoming teams, and our present structure and needs it was felt that it would not be of benefit to Hope Coalition to utilize funds this way.

It was voted to pay Dan Molind for the grant writing at the contract rate we had offered to others for the job.