

Minutes -Hope Coalition LTRG
November 1, 2023 7pm
Seventh Day Adventist Church
297 Vine Street Berlin

Attending- Dan Molind, Ty Rolland, Jon Kilian, Pat Archambeault, Laura Roachat Jody Paigek
Ashley Warman

Executive board began at 620pm to review slides and progress points. General meeting began at 7pm .

Ty reported he just got a text that RK Miles in Montpelier was on fire and fully engulfed. Expected to be a total loss. Another blow-after floods and a fire the week before at Mad Taco only days after reopening.

Dan had some good news that a team of Mennonites had visited on site and planned to come back on a regular basis to help with the recovery. Probably once a month for 3-4 days at a time.

We have set up a case management office in the former reception area. It is presently staffed Monday-Friday 8am-4pm (except Veterans Day). There have been challenges with phone and wifi service but we are working through them.

The state has given us approximately 85 families in addition to the 35 families we already had and we have set up individual files for them and are working through contacting them and setting up appointments for assessment teams to visit.

Towns throughout the state affected by the flood have been contacted to see if they have changed or amended zoning laws due to flooding. We want to ensure that any work that is done is with any new regulations. It was discussed that as an entity Hope Coalition will not knowingly Circumvent or break the zoning restrictions or regulations. If the homeowners request work that we know is not within the correct regulations we will have to decline to do the work.

The state indicated additional families may be sent to us. The majority of the affected families are in the Barre Montpelier area. When other Long Term Recovery Groups in the state are up and running we will release files to them. Bridge workers are to be provided starting next week until the Capstone Caseworkers are available -probably not until early to mid December.

An on-site FEMA caseworker is available to work directly with clients for the next few weeks, but could be recalled earlier.

Dan has requested 100 battery operated CO2 detectors and 200 Space Heaters for families the do not have heating restored at this time.

Capstone and the State of Vermont have rolled out new programs for heaters, boilers, heat pumps and water heaters. Efficiency Vermont also has new programs and income guidelines have changed post flood. Fuel assistance programs will be available later this year.

Updates as of 9 NOV 23

Habitat for Humanity will be sending one or two people to help with assessments soon. They are also available for rebuilds.

Hope Coalition has been able to close 30 cases to date.

A team of Menonites is coming next Wednesday to start assessments.

Also picked up another church interest in coming weekends so Dan plans to get them on the schedule.

People from all over the state and Hope Coalition attended the Zoom link training on November 7th.

Ty and Gary have already got a great start on local assessments.

Barre Up asked to take the cases involving rental units and apartments. Barre Up does not have building capability at this time and this leaves Hope Coalition more time to focus on families that have rebuilt/restore issues.

We are requesting donations in material goods and grants. Through assistance with our FEMA VAL (Voluntary Assistance Liaison) we are finding new sources.

See attachment