

Hope Coalition Meeting

October 4, 2023 7pm

Seventh Day Adventist Church

Berlin Vermont

Meeting Convened at 705pm

Attending, Dawn Hubert, Anna Aguirre, Dan Molind, Pat Archambeault, Shirley Van Arsdale, Jody Paige, Donald LeBlanc, Kevin Paige, Richard Curtis, Jon Kilian, Gary Watson, Ty Rolland, Cathay Chartier

Dan reviewed items accomplished to date

- 1- Registered name with State of Vermont- Hope Coalition
- 2- Article in Times Argus
- 3- Bank Account in progress- more forms being processed
- 4- Website up and running- more information added as time passes
Once bank accounts are set up on-line donations will activate
"Sign-Up Genius" will be set up so mission teams can sign up on-line

5-Advocacy Chairman- Nomination for Arin Renfrew- Arin unable to attend due to illness. Voted in as chair.

6- Assessment leader- Gary Watson- no chair for this operations group

7-Trainings and Sign-up-FEMA assisting with training models for disaster case management.

-have several teams signed up to come work

Oct 6th evening- Church group from Center Ct Church NH Work day Saturday Leave Sunday

Oct 9-13- Chris Autry- bringing group from North Carolina

October 22-29 Church for Massachusetts-7 contractors in group

Overlap MA group- 16 persons from South Carolina

8-Food Bank assistance. Caleb, our contact has announced our meeting and group goals to his contacts in the food supplier community. \$8000 has been donated by Food Bank of Vermont to the Hope Coalition towards food purchase. The account will be run through Enough Ministries existing account and deliveries of perishable goods stored on the Enough Food Trailer which will be parked at the Hope Coalition Vine Street location and operation in conjunction with the Thrift Store.

9- Thrift Store- Report from Don LeBlanc. The Thrift Store is being set up and should be open for business next week. Open store hours will be Tuesday and Wednesday 1-4pm. Fridays are set aside for Deliveries to outlying towns. Towns are being contacted via their emergency management, town manager, or other contact to find out their needs while being advised of the services available.

Ty Rolland asked if they are being involved in the volunteer process. Don said this is being communicated during follow-up contacts and conversations with town individuals.

Don asked if he can use Front Porch Forum to communicate about Hope Coalition. Dan said although he does not use this it could certainly be used. The more people that know about what we are doing, and the need of volunteers and donations more likely we are to achieve our goals.

Dan mentioned he has an interview coming up on Aired Out. Others mention the possibilities of WDEV and Christian Radio.

10- Cheryl at FEMA- has been a great contact for donations. FEMA has a program where goods some overstock, some used are donated then offered for redistribution. Although we have not been able to take advantage of this program yet there may be something down the road that will be just what we need.

11. We are actively looking for grant applications. Anyone who is familiar with grants, or knows of programs or money available for community or post flood projects

A Vt Community Foundation- no funds at this time- Dawn asked if specifics of what Hope plans to do were released. Dan- Yes. Answer was the same. Nothing being released at this time.

B. Catholic Charities. Advising very little funds at this time for large scale projects. Suggested sending requests (probably via case manager) for requests for individual families.

Dawn agreed having Arin set up requests for individual specific family needs would be the best way to utilize possible funding from Catholic Charities

Still working on Case Management Grants through FEMA. .

12. Tools have been purchased for use by the groups and volunteers.

13. Flyers have been developed and available for distribution.

14. Faith Community Church has expressed interest in heading up Hospitality to meet/greet/feed/host incoming work groups.

15. Email address list being updated. There still seems to be issues with emails going out. It is unclear if it is due to size of list being mail, size of attachments, being blocked by recipients as spam.

16. VOAD meetings Thursdays. Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters- Nationwide meets on Thursdays- to discuss what is going on in disaster management. May find this helpful to attend going forward.

17. Mennonite- looking to do "work days"

18-SBC Churches Insurance coverage for Hope Coalition has been verified.

19. Ty has assisted with setting up an account with RK MILES for Hope Coalition.

End of Old Business

New Business

Pastor of Hedding - Excited but busy- feels there would be interest from congregation

Capstone- interested but busy

Question from the floor- Are the teams that are coming contractors?

Dan- Some may be contractors, however most of the work we are doing does not require contractors. The State of Vermont requires work for electrical or plumbing must have Vermont licensed contractors to sign off on the work. Dan has talked to 3 different Vermont contractors and no one is willing to sign off on someone else's work due to the liability involved. Unless Vermont changes suspends regulations regarding this we would keep our scope of work very small and focused.

Question for the floor- What is McKenzie house?

Dan- this is a mission house- which once repaired from flood damage can be utilized for mission teams when the Vine street location is no longer available to use. Or possibly earlier to use as overflow as needed.

Ty suggested a phone tree to original 18-20 groups involved to verify they have been receiving information, Do they want to continue involvement , and at what level.

Dan said that could be done.

No further business.

Dawn made a motion to adjourn

Rich seconded.

The motion passed.

Meeting adjourned 753pm

NEXT MEETING October 18th 7pm

SDA Church -Vine Street -Berlin

REGULAR MEETINGS 1st Wednesday of the Month November 1st 7pm

SDA Church -Vine Street- Berlin