

Ad Hoc Committee on Homelessness

February 5, 2020

Hartford Town Hall - Room 2

In attendance: Michael Redmond, Renee Weeks, Michelle Kersey, Whitney Hussong, Rich Kremer - St. Paul's Church, Geri Williams - St Paul's Church

Members: Scott Fletcher - Community Member, Michelle Kersey - Twin Pines Housing, Michael Redmond - Upper Valley Haven, Jesse Vazzano - Community Member, Renee Weeks - Upper Valley Haven

Ex Officio: Whitney Hussong - Hartford PD, Sgt Karl Ebbighausen - Hartford PD, Tom DeBalsi - Hartford School District, Lori Hirshfield - Town of Hartford, Noel Bryant - Hartford School District

Selectboard Liaison: Dan Fraser

1. Call to order/Introductions: The meeting was called to order at 8:04 am.
2. Public Comment: Geri shared that St. Paul's has provided a space on Sunday mornings for breakfast and a place to get warm. She sees a need for a temporary shelter with things to do. There are empty spaces around town that could be used. The Haven is doing what they can for overnight. Transportation is a huge issue - there is nothing on weekends. Rich shared that St Paul's plans to start conversations this spring about opening the church during 7:00 - 8:30 am which is a gap time at the Haven.  
Jeri also commented on a need for education about homelessness. Rich shared that there are a number of homeless members of the community that attend St Paul's and that it has allowed for important conversation.
3. Announcements: Michael presented the preliminary report at the town's FY21 budget meeting in January, including the request for \$15,000 for basic supplies and motel vouchers. The Selectboard was responsive and positive, and were encouraged to hear that the funds would be administered by the Haven or Listen using systems that already exist. The Selectboard noted that the report had holdings spots for estimated costs and asked that the Committee supply estimates.
4. Discussion: The Committee reviewed the report and proposed edits. Michael will incorporate changes and submit the report to the Selectboard.
5. Meeting adjourned at 9:10 am.