

## **Hartford Ad-Hoc Committee on Emergency Shelter**

10/14/21 - Meeting Minutes - 5:00 PM

Committee Members present: Becca White (Chair), Ally Tufenkjian (Vice-chair), Simon Dennis (Secretary), Tom Pelitier, Bryan Luikart, Michael Redmond, Jon Chaffee

Community Members: Lannie Collins, Martha Hafner, Angela Zhang, Heidi Duto

Becca called the meeting to order at 5:02 and called for a motion regarding the most recent HADCES Minutes. Lannie noted that his name had been misspelled in the 9/30/21 Meeting Minutes.

**Ally moved passage of the September 30th Minutes as amended. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.**

**Ally nominated Bryan Luikart to serve as the Chair of the Committee. Simon seconded. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously. Thank you Bryan!** Bryan chaired the meeting going forward.

**Review Attached Documents. RV Definition. Letter to property owners.**

Ally reviewed the community guidelines that were presented and amended at a previous meeting. She led a conversation about a suggested guidelines:

- Speak from your own experience
- Consider multiple perspectives
- Respect expertise
- Critique the issue, not the person
- Prioritize impact over intention
- Step up if you have something to share
- Step back to make space for others
- Keep care at the core
- Speak with the intention that your words would be well received by unhoused community members

The guidelines were discussed and amended in minor ways.

**Becca moved passage of the community guidelines. Simon seconded. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.**

Bryan reviewed the definition of RV and other notes from the Hartford Zoning Regulation.

Bryan reviewed the letter to the Town of Hartford to Property owners regarding unpermitted encampments. It was agreed that this letter would be included in the meeting minutes.

### **Montpelier and Burlington Policy Review**

Ally introduced the Policies that were passed by Montpelier and Burlington that allow people to camp on public lands. Two documents which were developed in partnership with the ACLU were reviewed. These also will be included in the minutes.

Lannie mentioned that there had been some setbacks regarding the Burlington Encampment regarding a drug bust and the existence of guns at the encampment.

**Simon moved that the Committee recommend that the Hartford Selectboard place an item on the agenda to consider passage of an analogous policy to the “Sheltering On Public Lands” Policy passed by Burlington, VT. Becca Seconded. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.**

### **Haven Warming Shelter Update**

Michael reported that the Haven is not able to operate a Warming Shelter at its current location due to safety hazards. Subsequent efforts to locate a Warming Shelter at Valley Bible Church had been subverted by public sentiment. The Haven is not choosing to move forward with that proposal. The State is seeing a decrease in the number of hotel rooms that are available. There are 600 rooms currently available, whereas 2000 were available at the peak of the epidemic. This is the limiting factor rather than the lack of money. Advocates are making the case that we should not set artificial limits on the hotel stay program. There is a rumor that the Governor has done that, but there has not been a public announcement. The Haven is also ready to use resources to compliment State money to find hotel units. Families, people over 60, pregnant, and people with disabilities are currently eligible. People between age 18 and 59 without disabilities will not be eligible unless it is during adverse weather conditions. The Haven is also willing to step in and fund hotel stays for those who are not eligible. The Haven has an arrangement with the City of Lebanon, and will house people in hotels during the times that people will not be able to find lodging through 211 or the Lebanon Coordinator. There are still some folks that will be at risk of being unsheltered this winter. Michael

said that he would be open to opening a cold-weather shelter if a location could be found that meets fire code and is not too close to a residential neighborhood.

**Bryan called for a motion to Adjourn. Ally moved adjournment. Becca seconded. All were in favor and the motion carried. The Secretary did not note the time, but he believes it was approximately 6:45 PM when the meeting adjourned.**

Respectfully submitted.

Simon Dennis

## **Ad Hoc Committee on Emergency Shelter Community Guidelines**

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- Consider multiple perspectives
- Respect expertise
- Critique the issue, not the person
- Prioritize impact over intention
- Step up if you have something to share
- Step back to make space for others
- Keep care at the core
- Speak with the intention that your words would be well-received by members of the unhoused community