

New Mainers Working Group
9/24/19

Melanie, Maura, Doug, Dean, Steve, Liza (notetaker)

1. Approve minutes from 9/3/19
2. Needs for families
 - a) Family #1 - moved to Yarmouth (or Cumberland)
 - b) Family #2 - moving to apartment in Freeport
 - c) Family #3 - needs help with apartment search
3. Suggestion that the communities that have been involved with this effort continue to meet quarterly to keep a pulse on community issues. Need not be asylum seekers specifically.
Freeport Housing Trust, Freeport Community Services, Town of Freeport, Wolfe's Neck Farm, RSU5 rep., (others?). Melanie can coordinate initial meeting if needed.
4. Resource Guide – please get back to Melanie by Monday with suggestions.
5. Fundraising – after quite a bit of discussion, it appears there is a conflict in that the Town can't collect, manage and distribute the funds. Involves a conflict with GA and that overseer (Johanna) making distribution decisions. Discussed other entities that could do this. That entity would be in charge of managing and distribution of funds. On one hand FCS seems a natural fit because of these other services they offer. However, from FCS' perspective to collect and distribute "designated" funds would entail establishing a "new program". Given that the current situation involves only 2 families, and given that FCS already provides services to meet essential (and some basic) needs, and given that FCS is not interested in taking this on at this time, the committee has decided not to engage in fundraising nor will it continue to explore an entity to do so.
6. Event planning - there will be an educational event, to be held on Thursday, Nov 7, 6:30 - 8 PM at the Freeport Library. A panel of speakers - from ILAP, Yarmouth Compassionate Housing Initiative, and Hope Acts will give brief presentation and hold Q&A. (Possible that one of the new Freeporters will also speak.) Refreshments before, at 6:15.
At the event we will provide information about organizations that would benefit from donations, including the panel organizations. This committee had a meeting following this one and will have another one on Tuesday, Oct 8 at 6:30pm at the Broad Arrow Tavern at the Harraseeket Inn.
7. Other - Dean has a neighbor who may be interested in helping with his legal services. Advice is for him to contact ILAP.
8. This will be the last meeting of this group!
Thanks to all for input and support.
Adjourned, 6 PM.