



TOWN COUNCIL
**Committee to Assess Homelessness
in the Town of Barnstable**
367 Main Street, Hyannis, MA
Selectmen's Conference Room
2nd floor, Selectmen's Conference Room

June 18, 2019

6:00pm

MEETING MINUTES

I. BUSINESS

A. Roll Call:

Members present: Chair of Committee Councilor Jennifer Cullum; John G. Flores, Vice President, Town Council; Councilor Britt Beedenbender; President of the Town Council; James H. Crocker Jr.; AD HOC Member, **OTHERS PRESENT:** Ruth Weil, Town Attorney; Deputy Chief Cabral, Barnstable Police Department; LT Jeannie Challies, Barnstable Police, Mark S. Ells, Town Manager; Elizabeth Wurfbain, Hyannis Business Improvement District; Wayne Kurker, Hyannis Marina; Todd Deluca, Hyannis Chamber of Commerce. **Absent:** Councilor Debra Dagwan Member at Large, Deb Krau;

Chair of the Committee called the meeting to order at 6:05pm. Chair of the Committee asked for Public Comment, Todd Deluca, Hyannis Area Chamber of Commerce stated he has read the minutes from the last two years to catch up on what has been going on in Barnstable with respect to the Homeless, he has a number of business come to him with concerns regarding the murder that happened on the Village Green, with those types of events, it heightens everyone's awareness. Together with the Business Improvement District and us thought of holding a board meeting with the different organizations within the town, and would like to invite one of the members of this Committee to attend that meeting when it has been set up to possibly talk to us and let us know what plans are in place, and what is going to be done moving forward, or if we can help or assist you in any way to prevent future issues like this one happening again.

Chair of the Committee asked Mr. Deluca if he had a date in mind for this meeting, Mr. Deluca stated not as of yet, Chair asked that when the date is set if the date could be sent to our office Administrator to set up the meeting space and to let us know when it is.

Chair of the Committee asked Ruth Weil to give an update to the Committee on the Rental Registration policy, the last time this Committee had met the Town had hired a consultant to provide advice to the Town on the regulation of short term rentals, and as part of that process we have made the consultant aware of the concerns of this committee of expanding the definition of "occupant" to ensure that occupants of the property may not pay rent per say or some remediation those properties can be rented through the rental registration process; Attorney Weil will keep the Committee updated as this process continues with the consultant.

Chair of the Committee updated the Committee on an event in Falmouth called "Sober Homes" that she attended it was a group of professionals that manage the problem of Sober Homes from the Town Administrator to the Town Selectmen, the fire chief mass society of Sober Homes that spoke to the issue it was very tightly run where there was a half hour of statistics and a half hour of discussion, then a half hour of questions from the public, it was done so great there that the Chair Councilor Cullum wants to do the same in Barnstable, date to be determined depending on how fast we can get the same type of individual in the room. The moderator was fair and unbiased, there were angry people, there

were retirees, there were retired Administrators from the surrounding areas that spoke, so when we have ours I want the people that surround us like HAC and Duffy, they talked about what is the Federal level and what they can do at that level, then they talked about the State level, and the impact you can have at that level, then they went to the town level and what you can do at the Town level, so it was very well thought out and very well planned out. Chair of the Committee can't stress enough that the one thing out of that forum was certification, if you can't get the sober homes to be certified then there is no way of reporting, or oversight on these types of homes. Town Manager Ells asked if there was anything that was learned there that we are not doing here, Councilor Cullum said yes, if a sober home is certified then they receive State and Federal funding, if they are not then they receive nothing, so there is a benefit to become certified; those sober homes that want to certify are the ones that truly care about the clients there and want to help, and those that do not certify are probably just getting by and not providing any services to the people who live in them. One of the statistics reported was that 10 percent of the overdoses that happen occur in sober homes, that is a high number for a facility that is supposed to be getting that person sober and away from whatever addiction they have.

Attorney McLaughlin also attended the same forum and had some very interesting questions for the physician from New York, so there was a lot of interesting data to review on this forum, and she encourages everyone to view it.

Vice President Flores asked if there was a way to make sure that when one of these types of facilities comes into our town that it is mandatory they are certified before opening, Chair of the Committee met with Representative Crocker about that very issue, HB3881 failed so miserably in the House; it was a message sent that in order to battle this, it is not with legislation at the State level, but to conquer it at a town level, so that is what we need to look at. Chair of the Committee said the hurdle is going to be that it is not required to be certified.

Councilor Beedenbender said that being certified only benefits the client, not being certified also puts competition into the field, because those that receive funding are going to be the better facility to go to. Councilor Beedenbender would like to know if there have been any surveys done on those homes that are certified, and those that are not, and the success rate for those that have moved on from a certified sober home, opposed to those that are in an in certified home. Homeless not Hopeless falls under the Dover Amendment, so they protect themselves under that law which is educational, what educational programs do they provide, no one knows, because they do not have to disclose it under the Dover Amendment, the other problem is homes to not have to identify themselves as a sober home, so if you're not calling yourself a sober home, then none of the rules apply to you. Councilor Cullum would like to know what type of license Cape Abilities practices under, Attorney Weil did not know, but can find out.

Councilor Beedenbender said first they have to self-identify themselves as sober homes first, so if they do not, then there is nothing they can do, Councilor Cullum said yes, that is correct. Councilor Cullum also said for the Committee members to look at the M.A.S.H website which is the Massachusetts Association of Sober Homes, where they list all the certified sober homes in Massachusetts.

Motion was made by Vice President John G. Flores to adjourn; this was seconded by Councilor Beedenbender, all members present voted in favor of adjournment.

ADJOURN: 7:00pm

NEXT MEETING: TBD