



Human Services Committee  
367 Main Street, Hyannis, MA  
May 10, 2022  
5:30pm

## MEETING MINUTES

### I. BUSINESS

**A. Roll Call:** Administrator Cynthia Lovell took roll call: All members Participating remotely due to the extension from the Governor 's office protocol due to Covid restrictions.

Zoom link provided for the Public

Join Zoom Meeting n <https://townofbarnstable-us.zoom.us/j/88472161299>

888 475 4499 US Toll-free 877 853 5257 US Toll-free Meeting ID: 884 7216 1299

**Members present:** Scott Fitzgerald (Chair); Carlos Barbosa; Meaghan Mort; Liz Rabideau; Rep Steven Xiarhos; Cheryl Powell

Chair of Committee explained at the last meeting that he would like to step down as Chair and have someone else take the reins. Mr. Fitzgerald has served as Chair for a long period of time, and felt it was best that someone else have a chance to lead.

Liz Rabideau	here
Cheryl Powell	here
Scott Fitzgerald	here
Carlos Barbosa	here
Meaghan Mort	here
Representative Stephen Xiarhos	here

Chair of the Committee asked for any Public Comment, seeing none on the Zoom screen, the Chair of the Committee asked if the new members just appointed would like to give a little background to the rest of the members: Liz Rabideau long time resident of Hyannis, owning her own business led her to the Human Services side of the and wants to thank everyone for welcoming her to the Committee.

Cheryl Powell is a Licensed Mental Health Practioner, and was trying to help some of her patients that were struggling, and was wondering what the Town had to offer some of her patients, she discovered a Human Services Committee, and thought it would be a great time to look at what the Committee was up to and how it could be expanded. Started off in Nursing, worked for Santander Bank, became a journalist, and came to the Cape after leaving London, and made her way up to Licensed Mental Health Practioner working for Cape Cod Healthcare. She would like to see this Committee grow, it has a lot of potential, she spoke to Mr. Fitzgerald by phone, and was surprised that no one else wanted to Chair this Committee, but told him she would be glad to take the responsibility on if chosen bu the other members to serve. Ms. Powell is also a member of the Historical Commission, as well as the Hyannis Main Street Waterfront Historic Distric Commission, and recently she was elected to the Local Comprehensive Planning Committee (LCP)

Meaghan Mort mentioned that she will also be joining her on the LCP, and also works with mental health issues, and works in the pediatric field especially, would like to see a faster pace for these pediatric patients to receive the care they need more swiftly, often these pediatric patients stay for far too long in the Emergency Rooms for care.

Chair of the Committee Mr. Fitzgerald asked that the Committee to consider a new Chair for the Committee, he has served as Chair for 7 years, and would like to give someone else the opportunity to serve, has enjoyed being Chair, with that said is there any nominations from any of the Committee members. Ms. Powell offered to take the role on. Seeing no other nominations from the floor, Administrator Lovell took a Roll Call vote for the nomination of Cheryl Powell for Chair of the Committee.

Chair of the Committee Scott Fitzgerald asked for a nomination, all members nominated Cheryl Powell, this was seconded by Carlos Barboza; Administrator Lovell took a Roll Call vote:

Liz Rabideau	yes
Cheryl Powell	yes
Scott Fitzgerald	yes
Carlos Barbosa	yes
Meaghan Mort	yes
Representative Stephen Xiarhos	yes

Chair of the Committee, Cheryl Powell, thanked everyone for their confidence vote, and looks forward to expanding this Committee and reaching out to those in need and offering whatever services we can to those that need it.

Chair of the Committee, Cheryl Powell, asked for nominations for Vice Chair, Chair Cheryl Powell nominated Scott Fitzgerald, this was seconded by Representative Xiarhos, Administrator Lovell took a Roll call vote:

Liz Rabideau	yes
Cheryl Powell	yes
Scott Fitzgerald	yes
Carlos Barbosa	yes
Meaghan Mort	yes
Representative Stephen Xiarhos	yes

Chair of Committee asked the members for nominations for Clerk of the Committee: seeing none, Chair Cheryl Powell asked that the Administrator of the Town Council still be supportive of the Committee and continue to carry out the Clerk duties until such time that a replacement is found. Administrator Lovell agreed and will continue to support the Committee moving forward.

Chair of the Committee asked if the Committee was able to deliver a report to the Council, Mr. Fitzgerald did do a report, but then Covid happened and they were never able to get in front of the Council as we all went remote.

Chair of the Committee asked Meaghan about the Pediatric beds that she had concerns about, she works for a health care center that takes calls from Hospitals regarding boarding, or pediatric patients staying in Emergency Rooms longer than 4 hours, and if there is anything that this Committee can do to speed up that process, or bring attention to the problem, she would be grateful, or look at the State to expand the pediatric bed situation, there are just not enough beds to accommodate the need. She would also like Representative Xiarhos to share his information regarding Veteran's and the services that are available to

them, most do not know, so we need to get that out as well, the other issue is sex education in Barnstable. Is there a program, or do we offer anything to educate the students, we are in a changing workd right now, and Massachusetts is a great place to be right now, but education is a key element.

Carlos agrees with everything Meagan asked for and mentioned, We need to form partnerships with some of the outside agencies to reinforce some of the programs that are currently available but just need the support right now.

Liz Rabideau is a strong supporter of the mental health, and has worked with Meaghan on various issues, but women's health is the top priority in her Agenda, as she has worked in these areas and would like to see this also be a priority. Autism is another area of concern and getting those adults with Autism what they need and support them in their everyday life.

Representative Xiarhos mental health, as a police officer he saw it, and has dealt wit it, addiction is another area that needs attention, not only alcohol, but opioids as well, oversode deths, he knows a lot of parents that have lost their kids, Veteran's is another area of expertise and also the active duty individuals, we tend to forget about those still serving, and housing is another big issue, none of these are no surprises, he is still learning the government, and how it works. If this Committee can bring three topics to the forefront, and then to the State level for funding. We should be the leaders of the Cape.

Meaghan asked Representative Xiarhos about the Housing Committee discussion o Tiny Homes, he would like to see this happen in Barnstable.

Chair of the Committee would like her nmber distributed to the members as well as her email. She will formulate a letter to send to the members. Chair of the Committee will distribute a list of Agencies that this Committee should interact with nand send to the members.

Chair of the Committee asked for any questions from the members, seeing none a motion to adjourn was made by Carlos Barbosa, this was seconded by Meaghan Mort. Administrator Lovell took a Roll Call vote:

Liz Rabideau	yes
Cheryl Powell	yes
Scott Fitzgerald	yes
Carlos Barbosa	yes
Meaghan Mort	yes
Representative Stephen Xiarhos	yes

**ADJOURN: 5:30pm**

**NEXT MEETING: TBD**