

Committee on Ending Homelessness Meeting
Minutes of the February 2, 2005
(Room 208 City Hall)

Present at the meeting were: Mary Andosca, Eileen Brady, Maria Brown, Lisa Christie, Tony Epaphras, Bill Gray, Alphonse Haettenschwiller, Linda Jeynes, Donna Juskiewicz, Peter Kelleher, Keith Kuenning, Bob Mack, Bob Marks, Germano Martins, Laura Nault, Klaas Nijhuis, and Miles Pendry.

K. Nijhuis called the meeting to order at 9:10 am and had everyone introduce him or herself. The minutes from the January 27th meeting were not ready for review at this time. B. Mack will have them for approval at the next meeting.

K. Nijhuis started the discussion by stating that we need to identify all the things that need updating on the Plan, what is missing and any corrections that need to be made. B. Mack suggested we make a more formal report to the GNCOC each month. The committee decided a short report when something has been accomplished or if we need their assistance on anything would be enough for this report.

P. Kelleher stated that things were getting better, some progress has been made over the last two years and the agencies are beginning to deal with the flow of homeless as they can in. Affordable housing has begun to improve as well. E. Brady reminded everyone that single men are not getting the housing they need; it has actually decreased.

P. Kelleher suggested that if we gave this good information back to the media it would promote more help in ending homelessness. Some of the committee's suggestions were:

1. Note the significant number of times Citizens Bank has helped. Let them know how the plan has developed. Invite them to a meeting to acknowledge their help. K. Kuenning agreed to contact the bank about the GNCOC giving them a presentation.
2. Someone/representative from another bank to join the CoC membership.
3. Recognize Debbie Miller and Kathleen Reardon from Citizens Bank for all their help.
4. Show contributors what we have done with their money.
5. Have a card signed by people who were sheltered by the Fuel money collected by Citizens Bank.
6. Get the new Governor to come to a GNCOC meeting.

E. Brady suggested the Economic Development Department should be involved with the Ending Homelessness project.

K. Kuenning stated that the business community must be convinced of the need to provide affordable housing is also in their own best interests. Then we could handle supportive services. We should meet with the Chamber of Commerce. The homeless

also need a place to gather where they feel welcome and learn helpful information and skills. P. Kelleher stated that there were some things in place such as “The Gathering Place”, but not everything under one roof. L. Christie commented that this still doesn’t give them a place to live permanently. K. Nijhuis said we could talk to some of the business community at the March 2nd meeting for the Consolidated Plan. We could invite some key people to the Ending Homelessness Committee meetings.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:10 am

The next meetings will be February 24, 2005 at 8:30 am at Harbor Homes, 78 Main Street and March 2, 2005 at 9:00 am in room 208 of the Nashua City Hall.

Minutes prepared by Linda Jeynes/Urban programs