

Committee on Ending Homelessness Meeting
Minutes of the November 3, 2004
(Room 208 City Hall)

Present at the meeting were: Eileen Brady, Gabrielle Green, Linda Jeynes, Peter Kelleher, Bob Mack, Germano Martins, Ruth Morrisette, Miles Pendry, and Margaret Rutups.

B. Mack called the meeting to order at 9:04 am. The minutes from the October.6th meeting were reviewed; P. Kelleher motioned to accept minutes, E. Brady seconded and the motion carried.

E. Brady reported that the Public relations committee has not formally met yet and work on talking points for both new and senior legislators will be developed by the Public Relations Committee in conjunction with K. Nijhuis for review at the next Ending Homelessness Committee meeting for an early December mailing.

P. Kelleher proposed creating and publishing a public notice to run a few times in the newspaper letting everyone know that the GNCoC is here and has the resources to help with homeless persons and will accept anyone at any time to house overnight in emergency shelters. It would challenge the community to “Leave no individual, family, or child unsheltered this winter.” He will send a draft of this notice to all members by e-mail for their input within the week. R. Morrisette motioned in favor of this proposal, E. Brady seconded and the motion carried.

Discussion ensued concerning emergency housing in local motels, bringing them on board for overflow emergency sheltering. B. Mack said some of the motels do offer a reduced rate for this purpose. M. Pendry offered to contact motels in the area to see if they would be willing to contribute their empty rooms for this use at least once a week during the winter months.

B. Mack passed out a sample of a “Citizen’s Pledge Form” and a “Citizen’s Action” post card form to be used at the upcoming Holiday Stroll on November 27th. Discussion of the forms resulted in the suggestion of adding the GNCoC website address to the forms. The purpose of these forms is to get people to sign onto the Ending Homelessness idea and to get volunteers to help with the Plan. It was suggested that the two forms be combined into one short form that could be read quickly but still included everything. B. Mack agreed to revise the form and get it to E. Brady before Nov. 27th. The question was raised as to whether or not the Urban Programs Dept. could be the center for receiving information from these forms. E. Brady suggested giving some kind of a sticker or button to people who signed the pledge which read “End Homelessness” and included the website address. P. Kelleher offered to look into this possibility.

P. Kelleher reported that he and L. Christie had attended the Homelessness Conference in Boston where there was discussion about upcoming legislation regarding prevention of discrimination in housing by landlords. There will be more news about this in the future. The next meeting will be December 1, 2004 at 9:00 am in room 208 of the Nashua City Hall.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:05 am

Minutes prepared by Linda Jeynes/Urban Programs