

Community Relations Committee Meeting
December 2, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. via Zoom call.

Members Present: Cathy Wolf (Acting Chair), Anne deFontnouvelle, Quynh Tran, Julia Bellinger, Danielle Muenzfeld, Farrell Rodd, Tandra Leonard, Michele Marston, Emily Helms Williams, Barbara Rose, Julie Stanish

Town Council Liaison Present: Barney Rush

General Business

- The minutes of the November 2020 meeting were presented and approved by the Committee. Quynh moved to approve the minutes, and Michele seconded the motion.
- There were no public comments.

Old Business

Events and Community Service

- Holiday Gift Drive – Quynh reported that the gift drive to support the Family Justice Center was underway. The total collected to date is \$3,245. Last year, we collected over \$5,000. Before that, the total collected was in the \$3-4,000 range. The drive lasts until December 14th, but donations can be made any time. We have advertised through the Town’s various communications methods and social media accounts. Our Instagram account grew by 5 followers after the post, and several local businesses re-posted. The group discussed opening up the gift drive beyond the boundaries of the Town by posting on listservs of wider circulation. Barney agreed to raise it with the Council and other local jurisdictions.
- Warm Clothing Drive – On Marjorie’s behalf, Barney reported that Town residents have been very generous. Donations are picked up twice a week, and there were a total of ten bags on the most recent pick-up date. The total volume of items donated has been very impressive. We collected a total of 16 bags last year; we are likely close to that number now.
- Online Events – The group followed up on several potential events discussed at the November meeting.
- Memorializing COVID – Following up on prior discussions, Barbara and Quynh reported that they had a conference call with the Historical Society about collection of items to memorialize life during the pandemic. The group brainstormed how information could be collected.

Communications

- Welcome Bags – Michele reported that all of the bags have been delivered. There are six extra Welcome Bags in the Town Office.

New Business

Events and Community Service

- Opening of the Lee Denison Garden – This event is on hold until in-person events are allowed.
- Wine Tasting Zoom Event – Julia reported on plans for the event, which will feature Amanda Page from Magruder’s. The group brainstormed potential dates and other logistics for the event, including communications about it.
- Discussions and Desserts – Barbara volunteered to lead our next online event, which will feature Town resident Murray Horwitz. The group discussed potential dates and other logistics, including how to moderate the event over Zoom.
- Other Potential Events – We will not have the annual Chili Dinner this year. The group discussed alternative events, including potential fundraisers for Manna, since donations would not be collected at the event as has been done in past years.

Communication

- Survey – At the last meeting, the group determined that a survey of Town residents is not necessary at this time, given event ideas received in response to previous announcements and limitations in the Committee’s resources to facilitate additional events.
- Planning Discussion for Future Communications – This discussion was tabled to a future meeting.

Other Business

- The group discussed timing and sequence of events in the coming months.
- Next meeting: January 6, 2021

The meeting was adjourned at 7:52 p.m. Barbara moved to adjourn the meeting, and Farrell and Michelle seconded the motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Emily Helms Williams