

Tri-City Mayor's Joint Task Force on Homelessness  
 Annex Building Cochecho Room  
 April 12, 2018  
 7:01 PM

<b>MAYOR'S</b>	Rick Michaud
Mayor McCarley ( <i>excused</i> )	Dina Gagnon
Mayor Hilliard	<b>DOVER MEMBERS</b>
Mayor Weston	Marcia Gasses
<b>ROCHESTER MEMBERS</b>	Alternate: Lindsey Williams
Rev. Eliza Buchakjian- Tweedy	Betsey Andrews Parker
Elizabeth Atwood	Phyllis Woods
Jeremy Hutchinson	Andrew Howard
T.J. Jean	Dave Carpenter
<b>SOMERSWORTH MEMBERS</b>	Lena Nichols
Todd Marsh	
Laura Hogan	

**MINUTES**

Mayor Hilliard called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM. Kelly Walters, City Clerk of Rochester, called the roll, as noted above.

Both Mayor Dana Hilliard and Mayor Karen Weston gave opening statements.

Mayor Hilliard said the Tri-City Mayors have joined efforts to establish a taskforce to address the homelessness problem in the Tri-City area. He said communication between the three cities and local agencies would be essential to bring about long-term sustainable success. The mayors agreed on four points to be the primary mission of the task force as shown below:

1. Identify and define aspects of homelessness to be addressed by regional action;
2. Articulate appropriate benchmarks and metrics to measure success;
3. Develop sustainable programs and proposals to achieve success by using the resources and skills of the task force's participants; and

4. Create and forward a Tri-City homelessness master plan to Dover, Rochester, and Somersworth city councilors for approval by August 30 of this year.

Mayor Hilliard advised the taskforce that the plan is to create obtainable goals. The August 30<sup>th</sup> deadline can be moved back to allow for more time to create a workable master plan.

A few members suggested that the implementation of a cold weather station should be considered as a main focus. Mayor Hilliard agreed that winter would come quickly and a solution would/should likely be worked on as part of the overall master plan; however, the focus of the master plan should address all 4 points outlined by the Tri-City Mayors.

Mayor Hilliard said that all future ideas that are not attainable soon should be considered as "parking lot" ideas.

Mayor Weston said the Emergency Management Team had not been successful. She encouraged communication to be a key factor for the this taskforce.

Mayor Weston said it is important for the task force to identify the reasons why some folks are homeless in this area in order to set up the right type of programs. It will be important to determine what the criteria is for opening a warming center/shelter and to find out if there is a feasible option to expand the warming center in Rochester, NH.

Mayor Hilliard said at this point the three mayors shall be considered only to be used as a resource for this taskforce. The members shall elect their own chair and set up meeting dates accordingly.

**Election results:**

- Jeremy Hutchinson, President
- Marcia Gasses, Vice President

**Next Meeting:**

- Next Joint Taskforce meeting: May 10, 2018, Dover, NH (exact location TBA) Time: 6:30 to 8:00 PM (*more meeting dates shall be decided upon at the May 10, 2018 meeting.*)

## Sense-of-Task Force Action Items:

- Deadline changed from August 30, 2018 to November 1, 2018.
- Public input shall be limited to 3 minutes per speaker.
- The next meeting shall take place in Dover, NH (exact location to be determined).
- The Taskforce meetings shall meet from 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM at least once a month (*2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month, whenever possible*) and more often as needed.
- Betsy Andrews Parker, Strafford County CAP Program, shall collect data gathered from Strafford County on homelessness and other relative matters. Any/all data gathered should be sent directly to [bandrewsparker@straffordcap.org](mailto:bandrewsparker@straffordcap.org) at least one full week prior to the Tri-City Task Force on Homelessness meeting. Any/all data collected shall be included with the May 10, 2018 packet material.
- TJ Jean, Business Representative for Rochester, shall reach out to local service agencies and request that each agency submit a brief description of the scope of homelessness their agency has encountered and/or has served by their agency and what kind of assistance is being offered at this time. Any/all data collected shall be included with the May 10, 2018 packet material.
- A Cold Weather Shelter Sub-Task Group shall be assigned at the May 10<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- Lessons Learned shall be an agenda item for May 10, 2018.
- A sub-focus group shall be assigned for the foundation of a master plan. The group shall work to include short and long term goals based on policy, reasonable funding, and keeping the main focus on the four primary points of the mission)
- Tory Jennison, Director of Population Health, shall submit an educational directive to give guidance about acceptable language to be used for any/all topics/clients being discussed at the Tri-City Task Force of Homelessness meeting. This shall be included with the May 10, 2018 packet material.
- The Joint Taskforce Meeting Calendar shall be completed at the May 10, 2018, meeting.
- The May 10, 2018 Tri-City Task Force on Homelessness Agenda shall be attached to this set of minutes.

- A Tri-City Task Force on Homelessness Agenda template shall be used a guide for creating future agendas and shall also be attached to this set of minutes.
- All items to be submitted for the packet shall be submitted to [cityclerk@rochesternh.net](mailto:cityclerk@rochesternh.net) (*Sub-focus groups may submit a report to be included with the packet*)
- Jeremy Hutchinson, Chair, shall notify members of any cancelation of meetings.

Jeremy Hutchinson, Chair, invited the public to speak; however, he requested that speakers limit their comments to three minutes.

Eric Parks, homeless resident, gave a brief history about how he has been homeless since January of 2018.

Bobby Jo Young, homeless resident, gave a brief history of how she became homeless.

Don McCullough, Tri-City Co-op, suggested that a member of the homeless community be included as a member of the Tri-City Task Force on Homelessness.

Christine Paquette, resident of Rochester, spoke about short-term goals such as access to a shower, a small storage compartment for important items, and the cold weather shelter.

Ernest Ketel, Tri-City Co-op, spoke about homelessness and agreed that a member from the homeless community should serve on the board or a sub-focus group of the main group.

Monica Nagel, advocate for the homeless population, spoke about homelessness and a book she wrote entitled, *If You Had Heard My Voice*. Ms. Nagel spoke about affordable housing as another important goal for this task force to consider.

Tim Rivera, resident, said the Tri-City Task Force membership and contact were distributed along with a contact of local agencies. He named other agencies which should be added to the contact list. He spoke about people needing services as they are released from prison, the need for homeless shelters for men, and he gave a brief description of a new program

named "freemen". He agreed that it would be beneficial to have a member of the homeless community on the task force.

Cindy Thomas, Bethany Christian Services, spoke about her faith-based community services. She spoke about programs for pregnant women, the youth population, providing bus tickets, and affordable housing.

Ben Springer, resident, said the goal of assisting the homeless should be about finding out what it means to restore the person (homeless) to a whole.

Jeremy Hutchinson closed public input. He thanked the public for taking the time to give their comments.

In closing Mayor Hilliard thanked all the members and public for their dedication to the community and fellow humans in need.

Mayor Weston thanked Mayor McCarley for hosting the first Joint Taskforce on Homelessness. She expressed gratitude towards so many individuals and agencies for supporting this effort in the Tri-City area.

Jeremy Hutchinson thanked the taskforce for electing him as chair and all who attended. He ensured the members he would have an "open" door policy as the taskforce moves forward.

### **Adjournment**

Jeremy Hutchinson closed the meeting at 9:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly Walters, CMC  
City Clerk  
Rochester, NH

Tri-City Joint Mayor's Task Force on Homelessness  
May 10, 2018  
(Location to be determined by Dover, NH)  
6:30 PM to 8:00 PM

1. Call to Order
2. Public Input (*3-minute maximum and/or submit a statement*)
3. Data Review
4. Scope of Agencies Review
5. Sub-Task Groups to be Assigned:
  - a. Cold Weather Shelter/Station
  - b. Foundation of the Tri-City Task Force Master Plan on Homelessness
6. Lessons Learned
7. Complete Calendar for the Joint Tri-City Task Force on Homelessness
8. Other
9. Adjournment

Tri-City Joint Mayor's Task Force on Homelessness  
(TEMPLATE)  
(Rochester, Dover, or Somersworth)  
6:30 PM to 8:00 PM

1. Call to Order
2. Public Input *(3-minute maximum and/or submit a statement)*
3. Report of Data
4. Report of Scope of Agencies
5. Report from Sub-Task Groups
6. Assignment of New Sub-Task Groups
7. Other
8. Adjournment