

Town of Brentwood - Regional Associations Committee Meeting

December 12, 2024 Meeting at Town Office

Committee members present: Rebecca Dunham (Chair), Michelle Siudut, Laura Hajjar, Karen Veinotte
Absent: Bob Stephens (excused), Dawn Hanik (alternate)

Rebecca called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm.

Minutes of the January 8, 2024 meeting were reviewed. Motion by Laura, seconded by Karen to approve; passed 4-0. Michelle suggested we meet in January to approve tonight's minutes, so as not to have draft minutes unapproved for a year. All agreed.

Organizations approved for funding for 2024 had not been notified after Town Meeting; this was an error by the Town Administrator. Rebecca was unaware of this until recently. She has since contacted those who had not requested payment and encouraged them to do so. To her knowledge, all organizations who were approved for funding in 2024 have now requested their payment.

Discussion about removing the requirement of approved applicants to request funding. We agreed that notification to the applicants and their need to then request funds seemed like more effort than necessary. The Committee feels funding should be automatically sent out after the budget is approved at Town Meeting, with all checks issued by April 15th. Rebecca will recommend this idea to the Selectboard.

There were five applicants for funding this year, with a total requested amount of \$12,357.

Community Children's Fund

2025 Request: \$1,000 **Committee approved \$1,000**

Previous Requests: 2020 through 2022 requested/received \$1,000; 2023 requested \$1,000 received \$940; 2024 requested/received \$1,000

Budget \$133,565 / Expenses \$160,990 / Revenue \$149,199

Brentwood residents served: 21 children/10 families (\$2,820 in vouchers and \$500 to Swasey nurse)

The Fund raises money through special events and donations and works with local social service agencies (Lamprey River Health Care, St Vincent De Paul, SNHS) to distribute funds to income-qualified clients using a voucher program. Vouchers can be redeemed for clothing, footwear, bedding. No charity rating. In 2024 they distributed \$99,000 through the voucher program.

Haven

2025 Request: \$1,600 **Committee approved \$1,600**

Previous Requests: 2019 requested \$3,050, not funded; 2020 requested \$6,000 received \$2,900; 2021 requested \$6,000 received \$1,600; 2022 requested \$6,000, not funded; no requests in 2023-2024

Budget \$2,921,098 / Expenses \$2,921,098 / Revenue \$2,788,152

Brentwood residents served: 11 (35 units of service). These included one night of shelter, presentation of 'Safe Kids, Strong Teens' program to a total of 261 kids in Brentwood area schools.

Their mission is to prevent sexual assault, domestic violence, and stalking and to support and empower women, men, youth and families to heal from abuse and rebuild their lives. In 2024, examples of expanded services included: a chat system for survivors who are unable to safely speak on the phone; expanded capacity of shelter

working with local hospitality partners (hotels) for short-term safely shelter for survivors; increased collaboration with local therapist for clinical support; federal grant for support services one year after long-term housing is secured. Guidestar Silver Rating of Transparency. Donations from Brentwood residents \$2,060.

SNHS

2025 Request: \$5,707 ***Committee approved \$5,707***

Previous Requests: 2020 through 2022 requested \$5,707, received \$5,700; 2023 requested \$5,707, received \$5,647; 2023-2024 requested/received \$5,707

Budget \$46.262M / Expenses \$46.262M / Revenue \$45.8M

Brentwood residents served: 65 households valued at \$129,203

Community Action Partnership, part of Southern New Hampshire Services, formerly Rockingham Community Action. "The mission of SNHS is to provide activities designed to assist low-income participants, including the elderly poor, individual and family needs, secure and retain meaningful employment, adequate education, and make better use of available income, ameliorate the causes of poverty within the community, to meet urgent and immediate needs, including health, nutrition, housing and employment, rental assistance; and to address the problems and barriers which block achievement and self-sufficiency." The funding will continue to leverage the value of services provided to Brentwood residents. 86% of revenue for services versus 10% for overhead. Charity Navigator score of 96%, which earns a 4-star rating. Donations from Brentwood residents: unknown

TASC

2025 Request: \$750 ***Committee approved \$750***

Previous Requests: 2020 through 2022 requested/received \$750; 2023 requested \$750, received \$690; 2024 requested/received \$750

Budget \$183,858 / Expenses \$183,858 / Revenue \$135,747

Brentwood residents served: 7

Transportation Assistance for Seacoast Citizens. Mission: To help people maintain their health, independence, and dignity by mobilizing volunteer drivers to provide rides to eligible residents of the New Hampshire Seacoast communities we serve. There is no charge for rides so that cost is not another obstacle to accessing transportation for essential health care and other life needs. Costs include but are not limited to outreach, recruiting volunteer drivers, volunteer background checks, insurance and mileage reimbursements. TASC serves 10 communities in Rockingham County. In 2024 they expanded their fundraising efforts by participating in gaming, and developing new business and foundation grants. Platinum charity rating. Donations from Brentwood residents \$2,400.

Waypoint

2025 Request: \$3,300 ***Committee approved \$3,300***

Previous Requests: 2020 requested \$1,600, not funded; 2021 requested \$1,500, not funded; 2022 no request; 2023 requested \$3,300, received \$3,240; 2024 requested/received \$3,300

Budget \$22,917,515 / Expenses \$22,858,349 / Revenue \$22,914,519

Brentwood residents served: 26 families

Mission: "Empowering people of all ages through an array of human services and advocacy." Funding will be used to support services out of our Stratham Family Resource Center (formerly Richie McFarland Children's Center) as well as community-based services for families and youth experiencing homelessness." When RMCC merged with Waypoint, their range and service shifted to a broader population base. Services are based on need; a full range of early childhood developmental therapies, education and coaching for pregnant young women/couples, health care coordination and support for families with children who suffer chronic health conditions; parent education;

homeless youth “Street Outreach” providing survival aid and basic needs; case management and transitional housing and rapid-rehousing for single, pregnant and parenting youth. Overhead is 13%; 80% of revenue comes from governmental contracts and insurance reimbursements. To bridge the gap, they rely on fundraising - grants, town funding, annual giving and events such as Touch A Truck. Silver Charity rating. Donations from Brentwood residents \$950.

Motion by Karen, second by Laura to approve \$12,357 for the following:

\$1000	Community Children’s Fund
\$1600	Haven
\$5707	SNHS
\$750	TASC
\$3300	Waypoint

Approved 4-0.

Our total budget of \$18,000 had previously been submitted and approved by the Budget Committee and the Selectboard. Discussion about reducing our budget by \$5,000. Motion by Michelle, seconded by Karen, to reduce our budget to \$13,000; approved 4-0. Rebecca will address the Budget Committee about this change.

The new town website does not currently have an informative welfare page; there is a generic page there now. Town resident Jeff Donald requested a list of services be provided on that page. Discussion about the need to post that information. The Committee felt the information is important, but that it was not our role, but rather the role of the Welfare person. There was a question as to the status of the current Welfare person, as she has not responded to inquiries from Committee members. Rebecca will speak to the Selectboard about this.

Motion by Laura, seconded by Karen to adjourn at 6:46 pm; approved 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,
Michelle Siudut