



MINUTES

6/20/2024 Mayoral Ad Hoc Committee on Homelessness Meeting

Attended: Sasha Anastasoff, Dave Bilodeau (co-chair), City Councilor Tim Cowan (co-chair), Jennifer Edwards, Peter Floyd; City Councilor Belinda Gerry, Bonnie Hayes, Bill Lowenstein, George Sheats, Glen Holmes (guest)

Excused: Marianne Veilleux, Bruce Noddin, Elizabeth Fowler

Community Members Attending: Julia Kimball- Hub4 Coordinator

Meeting called to order at 6:10

General Meeting Notes:

- Julia Kimball gave a very useful and informative presentation on the Homeless Response System in Androscoggin County- titled Hub 4
 - Hub 4 is one of 9 Hubs across the state.
 - Provides coordinated entry system for those who are literally homeless.
 - Julia provided Committee with her Powerpoint slides.
 - Key facts:
 - Over 90% of those experiencing homelessness in Androscoggin County are unsheltered. (As opposed to those living with someone temporarily- aka couch surfing, or those at risk of becoming homeless.)
 - Between September 2023 and June 2024, 145 people were assessed for needs; these individuals could be representing a family or household- not just themselves. Of these 145 individuals/households assessed, 50 had already been housed and 70 were still being assisted to get housing. 25 individuals/households were disengaged (lost contact for 90+ days).
- Glen Holmes, presented overall goals and draft schematic of proposed Community Resource Center at 121 Mill Street. This center would co-locate city social service staff, staff from other community social service organizations and the *Drop-In Center*.
 - The *Drop-In Center* is a not-for-profit, 100% volunteer run, organization that provide services to those experiencing homelessness and those in need of food or other supports.
 - Glen answered questions from Committee Members.
 - The existing collaboration between social service agencies and the Drop-In Center will be strengthened and enhanced by having all located in one building.

- Bill L. made a motion that the Mayor’s Ad Hoc Committee on Homelessness endorse the City of Auburn’s proposal to renovate 121 Mill Street to be used as Community Resource Center that co-located social service organizations and the Drop-In Center.
 - Committee members present unanimously voted in favor of this motion.
- Committee discussed upcoming City Council meeting on July 1, during which the proposal for the 121 Mill Street conversion into a Community Resource Center, and identified steps to take to ensure supporters attended the July 1 meeting, with some speaking in support of the project.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10pm