

Cape Cod Hoarding Task Force

Thursday, February 13, 2014

9:30 11:30 AM

Dennis Police Department

90 Bob Crowell Road, South Dennis, MA 02660

In attendance: Lee A. Mannillo, BCDHE; Erika Woods, OHD; Deb Scavotto, Smooth Moving for Seniors; Lisbeth Chapman, Extra Daughters; Don Cox, Affordable Home Services; Bob Felt, OFD; Kevin Grunwald and Barbara Ann Foley, Harwich COA; Sherri McCullough, BHD; Meggan Tierney, DHD; Judi Wilson, OCOA; Mary Lou Woods, WFD; Emily Beebe, CHD; Mary Devlin, VNACC; Donna Baldwin and Fred Thimme, Habitat for Humanity/ Restore

Meeting Minutes:

Welcome, Introductions: Steering committee & members

Presentation by Donna Baldwin & Fred Thimme, Habitat for Humanity ReStore – A good deal for you, your community and the environment

Affordable ways to remove items from homes.

There are 800 restores around country. 100% profit goes to local affiliate to build homes with 10% of the unrestricted donation tithed to Habitat for Homes in impoverished countries. At the moment this money is going to Haiti. Have a box truck, Bourne to Provincetown pick up @ no charge. These items are donated to the store and sold at a deep discount (10-50 cents on the dollar). Tax deductible. Products such as: non-upholstered furniture (mostly), Leather furniture is okay, appliances, kitchen cabinets, building materials, home accessories, bed frames. They **do not** take small items, clothing, housewares, ceiling fans, books, baby furniture, used toilets, mattresses and electronics. Primary source of donations are from homeowners and some contractors. Estimate 20 tons kept out of landfill every month. They pick-up 2-3 days a week and will move the items from your home, garage, etc. They have 2 people on the truck at all times. They will not dismantle (other stores around the country that are larger might have this). They may send a person to assess what can be taken, or assess via email pictures. Lead time changes based on demand. Right now pickups are running a week to 2 weeks out. Give a call because they may be able to work with you on a reasonable timeframe. They are looking to open a store in another area, possibly Mashpee. Not enough room at this store. There are 7 restores around MA.

Habitat for Humanity Restores in MA:

South Yarmouth

Cape Cod ReStore, HFH of

[Web site](#)

Carver

Plymouth ReStore, HFH of Greater

[Web site](#)

28 Whites Path
South Yarmouth, MA 02664

72 North Main St
Carver, MA 02330

Phone: (508) 394-6400
donna@habitatcapecod.org

Phone: (508) 866-4199
Fax: (508) 866-4185
restore@hfplymouth.org

West Roxbury Boston ReStore, HFH Grt Web site	1580 VFW Pkwy West Roxbury, MA 02132	Phone: (617) 327-1170 restore@habitatboston.org
Lawrence Merrimack Valley HFH ReStore Web site	4 Un St Lawrence, MA 01840	Phone: (978) 686-3323 info@mrestore.org
Billerica Lowell ReStore, HFH of Greater Web site	257 Boston Rd Billerica, MA 01862	Phone: (978) 215-9975 restore@lowellhabitat.org
Worcester Metrowest-Greater Worcester HFH ReStore Web site	11 Distributor Rd Worcester, MA 01605	Phone: (508) 439-7655 restore@habitatmwgw.org
Leominster North Central Massachusetts ReStore, HFH Web site	637 Lancaster St Route 117 Leominster, MA 01453	Phone: (978) 227-5556 restore@ncmhabitat.org
Pittsfield Central Berkshire HFH ReStore Web site	70 Jefferson Pl Pittsfield, MA 01201	Phone: (413) 443-2106 restorecbhfh@gmail.com

So far since its inception, Habitat Cape Cod has Built 80 houses & will have 90 by the end of this year.

Other discussion:

VNA Thift takes upholstered furniture at their Dennis thrift shop.

A discussion took place about lack of services/ programs for seniors in need of home repairs. Three programs were mentioned: an annual service day in Sandwich designated to help seniors with home repairs (contact the sandwich COA for more information), Nauset Neighbors. Northside Methodist church- has help for seniors and Helping Hammers. Barbara-Anne Foley also mentioned Charlie's Angel. Check with your local COA's for specific programs and for grants /funding that they may have available to assist those in need.

A discussion took place about a suggested amnesty day at town transfer stations to help with cleanouts for items such as televisions and other costly items. Lee explained that although in the past towns have been very flexible in accommodating people in need with tipping fees, as well as donating dumpsters, an amnesty day Cape wide would be far too costly and complex. Lee suggested working with your local health, fire and or building official to organize help with a specific case. They may be able to work individual exemptions.

Capt. Felt mentioned **laptop for kidz** program for old computers at <http://www.laptopsforkidz.org>. The Laptops for Kidz Project helps local businesses and individuals [donate](#) gently used laptop computers to the Masonic Angel Foundation, Inc. The Laptop for KidZ Project's volunteer staff refurbish the computers and make them ready for distribution to schools through the Masonic Angel Foundation's partners in local school systems.

Capt. Felt explained that children who don't have access to computers at home quickly fall behind academically even in elementary school. They only accept laptops because they are portable and because they can be used at local free wi-fi establishments if they don't have internet at home. All

donations are tax deductible. Volunteers completely wipe the hard drive and have licensed copies of Windows to add as well as anti-virus programs. All recipients are unanimous; The Masons do not know who receives it, it is only known to the school that requested it. If you have a laptop to donate or know of a child in need contact Capt. Felt at the Orleans Fire Department at 508-255-0050. So far they have given about 800 computers to children on Cape Cod and Massachusetts. The demand is very high; 4 people work on this program locally, and only 1 person actually works on the computers.

1. I. **Updates from CCHTF Sub-Committees**

All of our grant money has been spent on trainings, website and new CCHTF informational postcards. The steering committee will be looking into applying for other grants in the near future.

New CCHTF website done. Check out the new site at www.hoardingcapecod.org.

The steering committee is actively looking for grant money for hoarding case management. The objective is to work with Jesse Edsell Vetter of Metropolitan Boston Housing Partnership (mbhp) to duplicate the very successful program that he runs for hoarding disorder. The goal is to have a case manager that can act as a point person on cases and help coordinate all of the different entities involved on a case. The CCHTF is also looking into have another community event in the fall. We may try to tap into Cape Cod Community College for assistance again.

The CCHTF is also looking to reach out to physicians on the Cape to help them better understand hoarding disorder and to give them resources that they can pass along to their patients and their families. Members suggested contacting, Physician publications, Van Northcross CCHC- Director of Community relations- he may be able to get CEU's for doctors and the Cape Cod Healthcare educational coordinator to possibly host a training at CC or Falmouth hospital for doctor and nurses.

It was also suggested to speak with Realtors. Capt. Felt will follow up with a friend who is a realtor. Also the conference center association. People feel that realtors may also need to be educated about hoarding disorder as well as personal protective equipment. Many realtors do not understand the time it takes to work with an individual with hoarding disorder.

Deb Scavotto updated the group regarding the Facebook Page. We are starting to get "likes" and "messages" on it. Need to boost its popularity. Asking that all members and affiliates "Like Us" on your own FB page. The "message" that we received via Face Book came from a woman in Florida who found our website very helpful. She has concerns with her sister here on the Cape. Deb was able to communicate with the woman and answer some of her questions.

Discuss Active Hoarding Cases

Deb spoke of another concern that she received on Face Book from a US Postal Carrier who is worried about a woman who lives on her route. She stated that there is an official looking placard on door that states that the Fire Department will not enter the dwelling if there is a fire. Neighbors are talking about

her, making fun of her, trying to get into back yard to see what is going on. It was suggested by the group that Deb or someone find out the history of the property. Someone should contact town officials to collaborate the story. If this placard exists- there must be an issue and background story that need to be researched.

Don Cox-brought up issue with FD-sensitivity training. He feels that many police and fire personnel could Denise is starting a second BIT workshop. New Buried in Treasures support group starts on Tuesday, May 6th from 2-4pm. The group will meet 15 times in a 20-week session at the Dennis Elder Services office. Please Email Denise Egan Stack at deganstack@gmail.com or the task force at info@hoardingcapecod.org if anyone is interested.

Announcements and Future Topics

North Shore Hoarding Task force- uniform checklist is available to use for hoarding situation.

Don Cox. Working on payment plans. So far he is self-financing. Still looking into grants and other funding sources.

Next meeting date: April 10, 2014 @ 9:30 at the Barnstable County Complex- Old County Jail. 3195 Main St. Barnstable, MA 02630