

Wenham Issues of Social Service and Housing (WISSH)
Board Meeting
May 14, 2009
8:00am

Board Members Present: Pat Purdy, Susan Carp, Don Killam, Tom Tanous, Sue Bannon, Cal Perkins.

The meeting began at 8am.

Minutes of the previous meeting in February, 2009 were approved.

Items discussed:

- The WISSH account balance is \$33,268.41. We received generous donations in the amount of \$8,585 and \$1,000 from a grant from the First Church in Wenham. For this Fiscal Year we have distributed \$2,443.54.
- There was a new request for assistance. Case # 254-09 was approved and distributed. The board discussed at length if WISSH should consider distributing the funds to an individual vs. a vendor. There has been one circumstance in which approval was obtained to distribute fund directly to an individual, but that decision came about after much deliberation and further verification the individual paid for something with personal funds. While due diligence was exercised in accordance to our by-laws, going forward the board agreed funds should be distributed directly to a vendor.
- The board discussed fundraising for FY 2009-2010. The board wants to be very sensitive to the economic times and will not consider fundraising of any kind for at least the next 6 months. Our current balance reflects the generosity of many and our requests have not exceeded our ability to respond.
- Pat Purdy will be obtaining the list of board members and terms from Fran Young, Town Clerk. The board was all in favor of retaining the existing board.
- It is important for everyone to solicit new board members. We have some board members that will be retiring in a year and it is necessary to have a succession plan. In addition it is important that the composition of the board is broad enough to represent the people of Wenham, which will also serve to keep our message and mission out in the public.
- The board decided that there would be **no** board meeting in June.
- The Selectmen have been working on seeking volunteers to fill the board created to focus on low-income housing. The WISSH committee is looking to move the Brady funds to that newly formed committee sometime in the fall of this year. More to come as this develops.
- Our next meeting will be **October 6, 2009**.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:15am.

Submitted by Susan Carp, Secretary