

Manchester Initiative for Supportive Housing

Minutes of November 15, 2007

Attendees: Brad Mondschein, David Blackwell, John Foley, Mary Foley, Suzanne Jolissant, Tom Stringfellow, Edith Perlwitz, Tim Woods, Jody Wynn Rodiger, Edith Gerber, Boris Gerber, Kathleen Grover, Sue Hadge, Bonnie Patocki, Job Eulizier, Anne Carr, John Gibbs, Aaliyah Mahasin-Blade, Joan Dower, Dianne McPherson, Jack Cotter, Wendy Fitzgerald, Frank Lotto and Jacki Campion.

St. James Church hosted our meeting. Joan Dower began with a reflection from Isaiah 42:16.

Upon motion duly made and second, it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve the minutes of the MISH meeting of October 17, 2007.

The next MISH meeting will be held at Manchester Community College on Thursday, December 6 at 7:00 pm. We will have a MISH website presentation by students at MCC and a presentation of a project MCC students are doing with students from Nathan Hale School.

David welcomed our newest Board member, Aaliyah Mahasin-Blade, Associate Minister of New Horizon Baptist Church.

We would like to begin working with the Women's Institute starting in the new year. The contract is still to be signed. Their first step will be to focus us.

Progress on the MISH website was discussed. We are looking for server space. Brad said he may be able to help as he's a member of the Connecticut Internet Service Providers. We will need to register a domain name. A quick search indicated that mishct.org is available. Dianne asked for approval to register mishct.org, mishct.com and mishct.net for up to ten years, not to exceed a cost of \$100.00.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was

VOTED: To approve the expenditure of \$100 to register mishct.org, mishct.com and mishct.net.

We began our site discussion by listing all the sites we know are available around town:

- Broad Street Site - near the quonset hut and area behind it
- Broad Street site - in front of American Eagle Credit Union
- Regent Street - between Hilliard and Woodland (large vacant parking lot, about two acres)
- Hackmatack Street - not far from Trinity Covenant Church
- Wetherell Street - old orchard across from Bogner's
- Chestnut Street properties - 2 older houses
- Willie's Steak House

We discussed the things we should consider when looking at a site: public transportation, access to services, near shopping, is it a safe site, access to parks, can children play safely, are public utilities available, environmental issues, and zoning issues.

Of the sites discussed and taking into consideration what we would be looking for in a site, we narrowed the sites down to three:

- Willy's
- 305 Broad Street
- Regent Street

It was suggested that we should drive by or walk the sites, keeping in mind the items we should consider.

Bonnie checked into putting supportive housing in the Town's economic development plan. However, we would have to have more concrete information and know where our site will be before it could be endorsed.

David noted that at our next meeting we should come prepared to talk about renewing our Community Awareness campaign and come up with a strategy for 2008. We need to continue to talk to congregations and groups in Manchester. We should also think about what events take place in Manchester where MISH might be involved.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was

VOTED: To adjourn.

Submitted,

Dianne McPherson
Secretary