

Minutes of Brooksville Friends and Neighbors Meeting –May 4th, 2011

Attendance: Jean Webster, Sally Blodgett, Edson Blodgett, Martha Smith, Peter Smith, Lola Bogyo, Anne Ferrara, Doug Cowan, Bob Holmberg, Chris Noble, Chris Farrow-Noble, Eric Chase, Maynard Forbes, Joan MacCracken

Announcements:

Farmers' Market will open Tuesday May 31 at 9:30-12:00 noon and run through Sept 27th. Vendors need to contact Costas Christ to sign up. Preference given to Brooksville residents.

Labyrinth Walk scheduled for May 7th 1pm on the Drury Road at the Nobles' Field. All invited

Discussions

A. The Community Breakfast for all residents, new and old, will be held on May 7th at 7:30-9:00am at the West Brooksville Congo Church and sponsored by BFN and the WBC Church. New known residents have been invited but it was hard to find out names of renters new to the area. Families with newborns have been invited. Lola Bogyo and Joyce Leck have worked on the organization of food duties and all seems set. Bread loaves from Tinder Hearth will be given to new residents or sold to newcomers to the breakfast. All invited.

B. The Community Memorial Varnumville Walk needs to be planned. Last year the walk in memory of Michael Bernal and to raise funds for Neighborcare was very successful. The spontaneous "service" by the brook, which included music, was beautiful and many people enjoyed the walk with coffee and toast served at Tinder Hearth afterwards. Over \$500 was raised for Neighborcare.

We would like this year to make it a Community Memorial Walk in honor of all those residents who have died over the past eighteen months from Jan 2010 to June 2011. Families and friends of the deceased will be invited to walk. The names will be read. A small "service" will be held at the brook with flowers available to toss in the stream. Anyone so moved will be invited to speak. As last year it will be spontaneous and provide the town a change to recognize those we've lost. We will again collect donations for Neighborcare.

Jobs to do. Arrange for parking for those who cannot walk but would like to attend. Have a few chairs for those who need to sit. Arrange for a vase of wildflowers for tossing. Ask the selectmen for permission to close the road for the Sunday walk. Contact the firemen who generously assisted last year in blocking the road to traffic. Contact Tinder Hearth to see if they would generously provide their space for coffee and tea afterwards. Make posters. Announcement in the Packet. Invite the families. Have donation can and mailing address for donations. We discussed the date and decided on July 31st. Time probably around 8am-10am beginning in North Brooksville. Final planning will be at next meeting of BFN June 1.

C. At Home Downeast, a program, being organized to help elders stay in place as we wish, was presented. So many people wish to stay in their community and in their homes as they get older and At Home Downeast wants to make that possible with volunteers and vetted vendors. This will provide an infrastructure to assist our neighbors. Asking for help is sometimes hard and hopefully as a member of this program, it will be easier to ask for help, while remaining as independent as possible. An article in the Breeze appeared and there will be one in the local Packet soon.

Joan MacCracken, Eric Chase, and Gayle Clifford have been working on the steering committee. Currently, lists of potential volunteers, potential members, and donors have been created. The people will need to be contacted. Joan would like people to be contacted by people that they know. She circulated the lists for have folks identify who they would feel comfortable contacting to invite to a meeting to learn more about the project. These meetings will be in June. Look for more information on this in the Packet.

The members of the group made some good suggestions. Dr. Doug Cowan and Dr. Bob Holmberg both commented that the new medical models of community outreach would link in nicely with this community model. Other suggestions were much appreciated and will be taken back to the steering committee.

Joan would appreciate hearing from anyone in Brooksville that would like to learn more about it.