

Minutes Brooksville Friends and Neighbors February 1, 2012

Present: Lola Bogyo, Edson Blodgett, Joan MacCracken, Jody Spear, Anne Ferrara

- 1) There was notification that the Budget Committee of the Town of Brooksville suggested NO FUNDS for the Town warrant which called for 400 dollars to support Brooksville Friends and Neighbors. In the past the town has given 250 dollars for two years each and 400 dollars last year due to increased printing expenses for the Brooksville Breeze.
 - a. Discussion: The Breeze is published quarterly and has now been in existence for just one issue short of five years. At this time the all-volunteer staff includes eight residents of Brooksville, Sheila Moir, Katherine Clifford, Jean Webster, Gail Page, Leslie Moore, Emma Weed, Sally Blodgett, and Joan MacCracken. The Breeze is distributed FREE to all year round and summer residents. The school and the town office routinely use the Breeze to notify the residents of their announcements or information. Many local businesses have received coverage in the newsletter. Each printing and mailing costs on average 350-400 dollars depending on the season, summer having more households. Donations have paid for the majority of the printing but the reserves are lessening. Perhaps more donations need to be requested. The 400 dollars would pay for one issue.
 - b. The mission of Brooksville Friends and Neighbors is to strengthen and encourage local activities that promote health, both physical and emotional. The newsletter of BFN is the Breeze, which increases community communication that supports that mission.
 - c. Other BFN projects have included: Supporting the creation of the farmers' market. Building the kiosk at the entrance to Brooksville allowing postings of activities and presenting a beautiful hand painted MAP of our town. Adding to the beautification of one of the entrances to our town by creating and maintaining a small perennial garden. Education the residents about the new project AT Home Downeast to help our elders stay in their homes by providing volunteer services such as transportation and companionship.
 - d. Edson Blodgett discussed the method of voting on the warrants. There will be a motion, it will be seconded, and then there will be discussion. Anyone who believes that the work of Brooksville Friends and Neighbors and more specifically the Breeze should be supported partially by the Town will have the opportunity to speak and vote. Its future may depend on this support. Town Meeting is March 6th at Brooksville Elementary School.

2.) The application for the Flash in the Pans Steel Band Fundraiser was accepted by Flash in the Pan with the stipulation that the event will be sponsoring three Brooksville entities that applied. These include the Brooksville Fire Department, The Grange, and Brooksville Friends and Neighbors. The date of the event is Monday June 4th. Publicity, Food stands, Donation collections, will be up to the three organizations. At our meeting there were no attendees able to volunteer to coordinate this event. We are asking if any member of BFN (and all town residents can be members) would like to volunteer to help out with this event. Please contact Joan MacCracken joanmacc@aol.com if you are willing to give a hand with this fundraiser. We also discussed other possible fundraisers for the Breeze.

3.) Update on At Home Downeast. Members are now being signed up and services started Feb 1. Many of the members are not requiring services at this time but want this as a safety need and an “insurance policy” that is there when you need it. Over twenty volunteers from Brooksville have signed up. Many of them will not be needed right off but will certainly be asked as the needs arise. Thanks to all the volunteers who have sent in their applications. A part-time position of local coordinator will be open as soon as ten members in a town are onboard. The local coordinator will help to continue to recruit members and volunteers as well as be a back up for the program manager in their town. A small stipend will be available. Any interested party can learn further information from Joan MacCracken 326-0916.

4.) Early Childhood Learning Initiative—Community Action Group. Third Meeting will be held on Tuesday Feb 7th 3:30-5pm. Still open to the public for interested folks. See Healthy Peninsula for Agenda. Meeting at Sedgwick Elementary School. The goal of the group is to try to have all children ready to learn by kindergarten by providing preschool and playgroups.

Next meeting will be March 7th the night after the town meeting. Please come Wed March 7th 6:30-8:00pm

Submitted, Joan MacCracken