

SOMERSWORTH, NEW HAMPSHIRE

City of Somersworth
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HILLTOP MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS COMMISSION

Wednesday, September 21, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.

at the High School Library

11 Memorial Drive, Somersworth, N.H.

MINUTES

1. Call to Order;

- a. Todd Marsh called meeting to order at 6:07pm

2. Approval of Minutes;

- a. Maggie moved & Don seconded approval of July 13th meeting minutes, not August 24, 2022
- b. Introductions:
 - i. Jess Clay, Todd Marsh, Dina Gagnon, Schoolboard Chair Maggie Larson, Chief Tim McLin, Arielle Marquis, Spencer Barnes, Mary Boisse-Barnes, Ashley Wright, Eileen, City Councilor Don Austin, Mayor Hilliard

3. Chair Reading of Commission Mission

4. Welcome & Comments by Chair

- a. Todd – reflecting on purpose of being in part of this work
- b. Would like to stay focused, stay on task, and keep moving forward to get the work done

5. Recovery Friendly Workplaces Presentation/Discussion/Next Steps--Mary Boisse (SOS)

- a. Would also like to discuss the barriers as to why people would be hesitant so we can work to overcome those
- b. Q: Has SOS done this at the City level yet?
- c. A: Yes → worked with Manchester – slower process with more people, but with additional communication, flexibility & coordination, it worked
 - i. Also done in Concord & Nashua → state advisors are also a resource
- d. Join Commission approved this already last year
- e. Wanting to move forward together
- f. Mayor Hilliard would like SOS to present for October 18th at 6pm to the School Board & City Council for an hour “workshop” – would refer it to the respective committee at City & Schoolboard – report out & discussion would be in November
 - i. Would like to have representatives from other municipalities attend to help with Q&A
 - ii. Cannot be over Zoom, would have to be in-person
 - iii. Can have testimonials recorded & shown or can share information via email for people to reach out to
- g. Had a presentation with a dialogue that followed
- h. Letter of Intent is needed from School & City
- i. Presentation to School Board would also come
- j. One of the biggest pieces – all leadership roles in City will need to be bought in in order for this to be successful – think about how this looks in the City
 - i. It can look different in different departments – can have resources in certain departments and additional initiatives in others, but buy-in needs to be there

Proud past, bright future

- ii. Orientation is 30-minute presentation – nice opportunity for this to be with all department heads
- iii. Law Enforcement considerations would be different than other departments; i.e. affirmative action & other standards – are there experiences in other municipalities that could help make this successful in a PD setting?
 - 1. Newmarket had similar concerns; maybe we don't want officers to disclose information to supervisors, but we have resources available in a safe/secure place and encourage people to utilize these resources so they can be connected without jeopardizing their career

6. Community Awareness Mural Discussion/Next Steps – Jessica Clay (Guest)

- a. At August 'meeting' discussions, there was discussion with a public awareness mural
- b. Ordinances – there are no zoning requirements pertaining to outside murals
- c. Something to possibly be concerned about would be about quality and maintenance
 - i. Who is going to take care of this once it's done?
 - ii. Consider alternatives to traditional murals like using canvas & other mediums that could be more easily maintained, posted, etc.
- d. Jess – neighborhood cleanup initiative led to the development of a mural as an effort to revitalize a piece of the community; City was receiving of it as long as message was appropriate; had to get the design approved
 - i. Special coating can help maintain, helps with fading & other deterioration
- e. Potentially layering on top of the existing mural on Constitution Way that has not been maintained
- f. Find a space that has a lot of traffic & use art to lure into our purpose
- g. Costs – materials and supplies, artist/muralist, volunteer time
- h. Feel like we'd get a lot of support in Somersworth; last election there was discussion about creating an Arts Commission
- i. Consider the "why" behind the message
- j. Working to build "Recovery in the Trades" as a brand and initiative in the community to help connect people in recovery to work & support them
- k. Next Steps:
 - i. Not thinking we'll have it done by next meeting, but how do we move forward with planning
 - ii. Be intentional
 - iii. Suggestion – would like to have an ad-hoc committee off of this Commission to focus on & explore this project
 - 1. Would like not to wait for the charrette so we can begin moving forward & engaging others in the development
 - 2. One of the reasons that the murals were successful was because of who was engaged in the process; people with lived experiences, people in the community that you're creating this in, engaging people who you are targeting with the message in the development of the message
 - 3. Maggie will be the point-person for the development of this ad-hoc

7. Media/Social Media Outreach Discussion/Next Steps

- a. Do have some language on the Public Access TV – sharing 988 information – would encourage sharing both the NH Rapid Response line information, as well
 - i. Todd will talk with Ashley about coordinating this
- b. Want to speak to the City about slowing down the length of time it shows on TV

8. Charrette Discussion/Next Steps

- a. Tabled for next meeting

9. Initiatives Progress Check

- a. Happy that we're moving forward with Recovery Friendly Workplace

10. Future Meeting Dates/Suggested Agenda Items

- a. October 18th RFW meeting – would encourage Commission members to attend
- b. October 19th is next Commission meeting

11. Other

12. Public Input

13. Adjournment

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- a. Ashley motions to adjourn
- b. Don second
- c. Meeting adjourned

Respectfully submitted,

Ashley Wright