

Minutes of the Plainfield Social Concerns Committee

November 11, 2023

3:00pm

Cutler Memorial Library

In attendance: Gail Falk, Judy Cyprian, and Marcy Hale', all members of the committee.

The Plainfield Social Concerns Committee met November 11, 2023, to review applications for 2024 Town Meeting funding.

The Committee reviewed 18 applications and made recommendations for funding. A spreadsheet with recommendations will be submitted separately. The Committee members were in agreement on all recommendations.

In making recommendations, the Committee considered past funding level, the importance of the services to the well-being of Plainfield residents, the number of Plainfield residents served, the hours of services provided to Plainfield residents, other sources of funding to the organization, how the request compares to requests by the organization to towns of similar size to Plainfield, and the overall budget of the organization.

Most organizations requested and received level funding. The committee recommended a modest increase to two groups: Good Beginnings and Elevate Youth (formerly Washington County Youth Services Board). Three groups who previously received funding, but did not apply last year, were recommended for funding: Our House, Vermont Family Network, and Washington County Diversion.

The committee recommended zero funding for the Central VT Economic Development Corporation as they serve businesses rather than individuals and is not the type of organization funded through the Social Concerns budget.

The committee recommended funding for Friends of the Winooski River in recognition of the value of service they provide to the town, particularly this year when they helped with clean-up following the July flooding. This group has applied for and received funding via the Social Concerns Committee for several years. However, we debated whether this group fits into this committee as defined by our mission. We will seek guidance from the selectboard as to whether the group's request for funding should remain with this committee or shift elsewhere.

The total amount recommended for funding is \$14,650.00. This is a decrease of \$275 from last year.

The committee was struck by the extensive need for these services by residents of our community. We recognize that many of the groups funded are stretching their budgets to provide their services and continue to request and receive level funding. We also recognize that as a committee we are recommending funding within the limits of the town's budget.

Respectfully submitted,
Marcy Hale'