

Social Justice Action Meeting 8/5/14

Attending: Joanie Rothstein, Wendy Smith, Anne Marinello, Akankha Perkins, Peter Rousmaniere

Convened outside Social Hall at the North Chapel. 5:30 – 7 PM

Food Justice

Joanie Rothstein presented the committee with a typical assemblage of food that a Food Shelf customer receives once a week. There was a general perception that it was perhaps enough for a couple of days' sustenance if that. Expiration dates appeared old. Joanie reported low inventories of fruits and vegetables. She believes that the Food Shelf is short on resources, mention was made that Daniel is on the board. The committee would like some kind of report from the Food Shelf about its needs, and also a better idea of the state of food security/insecurity in the Woodstock area.

Action: Anne Marinello to talk with Daniel and the head of the Food Shelf

Welcoming Community

The committee discussed the feasibility of some kind of symbol / sign to appear on the lawn. Action: Wendy was tasked with doing a search of how other churches and organizations have presented themselves as welcoming communities. Key words suggested included welcoming inclusiveness, safe, engaged, proactive, chatty.

Short term housing

Anne presented the problem of short term housing need in town, for youth, young mothers, and others who need short term lodging while longer term arrangements are made. Joanie noted that police chief Bobbie Blish has an interest in this issue. The committee narrowed down the concept to housing for a month or less with a screening process in place. Anne noted that Gov Shumlin has invited some border kids to reside in Vermont.

The committee feels its role now is to raise consciousness; also to consider if space in the rectory is viable.

Action: Joanie to follow up, including contacting Sherry Thornberg of the Ottaquechee Health Foundation and Bobbie Blish.