

RYE REGIONAL ASSOCIATION REVIEW COMMITTEE

Wednesday, December 14, 2022

5:30 p.m.

Rye Public Library

Present: Chair Linda Toumpas, Vice-Chair Susan Cole Ross, Clerk Ronna Werner, and Valerie Fagin. Absent: Suzanne Barton

I. Call to Order

Chair Toumpas called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m.

II. Review of Minutes of April 27, 2022 Meeting

Motion was made and accepted to approve the minutes of April 27 2022 Meeting.

III. Review Donation Requests from all 20 Associations

Although Suzanne Barton was unable to attend the meeting, she sent an email indicating she approved all the Associations except for the Seacoast Shipyard Association.

Toumpas had prepared an Excel spreadsheet consisting of the following columns.

- A. Name of the Association
- B, C, D. Need, Relevancy, Proportionality to rate each Association in each category.
- E. 2022 Request
- F. 2023 Request
- G. Yes/No to accept or reduce the Associations donation request

Additional rows were added under each Association for comments.

A copy of this spread sheet was sent to committee members. The Committee reviewed all 20 Associations individually and the spreadsheet was used to compile the results. The spreadsheet will also be given to the Select Board for an overview of the results of the Committee review.

Toumpas suggested we begin reviewing each Association in alphabetical order.

Aids Response Seacoast

This is the only Aids not-for-profit serving Rockingham and Strafford counties. They serve 3-5 Rye residents. The request for \$1,800 was unanimously approved.

American Red Cross

They requested the same amount of \$2,500 as last year. Last year they served 1 disaster for 3 individuals. We are unsure how they calculated the donation amount as there were no Rye residents served this year. However, Rye residents may have received training for CPR, babysitting, Lifeguard training or received a blood transfusion from blood collected from their many blood drives. This organization has been around for a very long-time and we know should there be a disaster in Rye they will be here to assist our residents. The request for \$2,500 was unanimously approved.

Big Brothers/Big Sisters

This organization still serves the same number of children, 2 and 1 on the waiting list in Rye same as last year, but serve a very large population in the Seacoast area. Currently, many children are still impacted by COVID with an increase of mental health issues in children, so we feel it is important to fund this organization again this year. Although they seem financially secure, we suggest a review of next year's balance and income statements to we will have a better picture of their financial situation as we will then have 2 ½ years to review. The request for \$3,000 was unanimously approved.

Child Advocacy Center

They serve 541 in the Seacoast area and 2 of those served are from Rye. Looking at the number served, it is very clear that child abuse and neglect is prevalent and needs to be addressed. The request for \$1,500 was unanimously approved.

Child and Family Services

We funded this Association last year for \$1,400, however, they changed their name this year to Waypoint to better reflect who they are now. No funding was requested for under Child and Family Services this year, but a review will be done for Waypoint as they submitted a Donation request under that name.

Cross Roads House

Last year they requested \$1,250 but they doubled their request to \$2,500 for this year.

They have provided 660 bed nights for 2 Rye residents at \$75 per night for a total of \$49,500. The issue for moving people to long term housing is extremely difficult as there is little to no affordable housing in the Seacoast area and especially in our area. The request for \$2,500 was unanimously approved.

Great Bay Services

Last year they requested \$1,500 and this year requested \$5,000. This Association only serves 26 clients, none in Rye, and the clients are in a very large area that includes Rockingham and Strafford counties in NH as well as York and Cumberland Counties in Maine. If not for the COVID relief dollars they received that provided 99.7% of their grant monies, they would have been forced to close their doors. They also indicated a large increase in salaries to hire staff. We recommend funding them for the same amount as last year of \$1,500. We are not responsible for helping them keep their doors open. We will need to take a hard look at them next year and that's if they are still open. They serve the Developmental Disability community. There are some very large non-profits that serve this community, as well as other smaller organizations on the Seacoast that could absorb any of the 26 clients who are from NH. The clients in Maine would need to work with Maine agencies. The request for \$5,000 was unanimously denied and the amount for this year of \$1,500 same as last year was unanimously approved.

Greater Seacoast Community Health

This Association serves the medically underserved communities, providing access to quality, affordable healthcare with primary care, oral and mental health providers. They served 104 in 2021 and 71 January to June 2022 in Rye from a total of 1,897 in towns of Seabrook, Hampton, Hampton Falls, North Hampton, New Castle and Portsmouth. They are well funded and strong financially. The request for \$2,000 was unanimously approved.

HAVEN

They provide violence prevention training and education to help eliminate sexual and domestic violence in the community. HAVEN also provides 24/7 crisis hot-line and shelter to assist victims of sexual and domestic violence. They provided services for 2 Rye residents. The request for \$3,250 was unanimously approved.

Home Health VNA of NH

This Association last year was Seacoast VNA and last year merged with Home Health VNA of NH who have now merged with Tufts Medicine Care at Home and will be reviewed under that name.

Meals on Wheels

Last year they requested \$2,369 and this year requested a very modest increase to \$2,440 due to the cost of gas and food prices. They serve 34 Rye residents. As important as meals are for this population, wellness checks are vitally important to be sure each client they serve are safe and healthy. The request for \$2,440 was unanimously approved.

New Generation

They help homeless women who are pregnant or have children. They served 5 from Rye. They recently became part of NH Catholic Charities and work with New Frontier Church in Newington who provide weekly life skills sessions and support groups. Although this is a good organization, we feel there is a conflict between church and state and recommend removing them from future donations by a warrant article. The request for \$2,000 was unanimously denied and the amount for this year of \$1,000 was unanimously approved.

RSVP Program

This Association, Retired & Seniors Volunteer Program is Seniors helping Seniors have served 300 Rye residents. The request for \$1,500 was unanimously approved.

Richie McFarland Children's Center

This Association has merged with Waypoint and the review will be done as Waypoint as they submitted a request form under that name.

Rockingham Community Action

In 2020-2021 they served 60 Rye households with electrical and fuel assistance, food programs and a Homelessness Prevention Program, just to name a few for a total of \$50,397 in assistance. They are strong financially and have a solid Board of Directors. The request for \$5,996 was unanimously approved.

Rye Senior Serve

This Rye non-profit serves only the elderly population in Rye and is staffed by Rye volunteers. The request for \$1,500 was unanimously approved.

Seacoast Family Promise

They work with families who have become homeless and in the past 18 years, 90% of their families have remained housed and stable. Three Rye residents were served. The request of \$1,500 was unanimously approved.

Seacoast Mental Health Center

Mental health issues continue to rise, especially in children. In FY21 they served 101 Rye residents and in FY22 they served 86. This is from a total Seacoast are served of 6,244 and 6,432 respectively. The request of \$6,000 was unanimously approved.

Seacoast Pathways

This unique organization works with individuals with mental illness and other co-occurring disorders such as substance abuse, acquired brain injury and developmental disability. They follow the Club House Model where participants can drop in and receive assistance from staff, but more importantly with peers. Participants are referred by the community mental health centers, hospitals and clinics. The request for \$1,500 was unanimously approved.

Seacoast Shipyard Association

This Association is **not** a 501 (c) 3 non-profit. They are a Lobbying group for the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard. As stated on their website <http://saveourshipyard.org>, since their inception, their primary purpose has always been to protect the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard from closure, to focus on community support for the shipyard, as well as a visible and aggressive government liaison to lobby on behalf of the shipyard in Washington. Our recommendation is to remove this association from further funding, however, since we cannot defund any association without a warrant article. The request for \$500 was unanimously denied and we recommend \$50 for this year. We unanimously agree we should not fund any Association that is not a 501 (c) 3 registered as such with the IRS.

S.P.C.A.

They provided 45 Rye residents with services in 2021 and 2022. They continue to provide Rye residents for adoption, re-homing, training, etc. as well as the town of Rye when a stray animal is taken there by the Rye Animal Control Officer. There is always a need for this agency. The request of \$1,000 was unanimously approved.

Tufts Medical Care at Home

Here is some history on the changes that have taken place over the past year and a half. Donation approval, by warrant article, was given to Seacoast VNA. Last year, they became part of Home Health VNA that is one of the programs of Tufts Medical Care at Home. Home Health VNA have 3 offices in MA and two in NH (Bedford and North Hampton) and they are now one of many programs under Tufts Medical Care at Home. In reviewing the financials for Tufts, they show losses in the millions of dollars.

Their request of \$9,975 is 1/6 th of the total budget for the Town of Rye. We do not feel we should be supporting a large MA organization that happens to have an office for one of their programs in the Seacoast area. The original warrant article was written for Seacoast VNA and further discussion on this will involve a discussion with the Town Attorney. The donation request is a significant dollar request for Rye, but \$9,996 will not have any impact on losses of millions for Tufts. The request for \$9,996 was denied and for this year \$3,000 was unanimously approved.

Waypoint

Here is some history on Waypoint. Child and Family Services and The Richie McFarland Children's Center were two separate associations approved for donations by 2 separate warrant articles. Child and Family Services changed their name last year to Waypoint to better reflect who they are now. This was not a merger only a change of name. This year The Richie McFarland Children's Center became part of Waypoint and are one of many programs offered by Waypoint. Last year, Child and Family Services requested \$1,400 and The Richie McFarland Center requested \$4,800. When the Donation Request form was sent to both Child and Family Services and The Richie McFarland Center, the form came back as the Organization's name as Waypoint. The form stated that their funding request "represented a combined request" the Committee took to mean the donation is for both Waypoint and The Richie McFarland Center. The Committee agreed that Waypoint has been around for decades and is an outstanding organization. The request for \$4,800 was unanimously approved, but with this caveat. Next year's request should come only from Waypoint, with no reference to The Richie McFarland Center or any other of their programs. We do not want to sponsor programs within an organization.

In summary, In 2022, the Associations donations request totaled \$56,840 and for 2023 the total donation requests totaled \$60,261.

The Committee recommended reductions to requests from Great Bay Services (\$3,500), Seacoast Shipyard Association (\$450), Tufts Medical Care at Home (\$6,975), and New Generation (\$1,000) for a total reduction of \$11,915.

This would bring the recommended donation request amount to \$48,336 and is pending approval by the Select Board and the Budget Committee.

IV. Discuss Presentation to Select Board

Before the Committee can make a presentation to the Select Board at a meeting, Cole Ross will prepare a list of questions to be presented to Select Board member King who oversees this Committee. The date for the Committee's presentation is TBD.

V. Next Steps

Once questions are submitted and received from Select Board King, we will prepare our presentation to the Select Board.

VI. Set Date for Next Meeting

The next meeting date is TBD.

VII. Other Business

There was no other business.

Adjournment

Motion was made to adjourn at 7:30 p.m. Seconded. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Toumpas
Chair