

Meeting Minutes
Thurmont Addiction Commission
Sept 13, 2018. 7pm- 8:30pm

Attendees:

Commissioner Jay Churchill	Commission Chair, Voting member
Commissioner Michael Randall	Commission Co-Chair, Voting member
Commissioner Rachel Hubbard	Voting member
Commissioner Edward Schildt	Voting member
Commissioner Myra Derbyshire (Secretary)	Non-Voting member (alternate)
Town Commissioner Martin Burns	Town Council Liaison
General Public: including Ms. Susan Crone (who was elected at this meeting to be the new TAC Prevention pillar lead), Mr. Mark Rogers (who was elected at this meeting to be the new student rep), and Ms. Karen Schildt (who was elected at this meeting to be the TAC Treasurer)	

This was the first of our televised meetings:

Commission Chairman Churchill addressed the commission that it had a packed agenda for tonight’s meeting and asked that presenters keep to their allotted times, as there was a “lot of business” to get through.

In the first item of business, TAC approved the August TAC meeting minutes written by Commissioner Derbyshire.

Commission Churchill next explained his vision of the role of TAC as that of facilitator, and that the three pillar meetings were where the “rubber meets the road”. He expressed that the full TAC meeting is an opportunity to share with the community what it’s doing, and for TAC to hear back from the community about what’s working and how to do things better. At today’s meeting therefore “you will only hear the highlights of what TAC is doing”.

He also explained that with TAC going into its second year, with new bylaws in play, you will see some shuffling of positions.

A brief discussion and consideration of the new bylaws followed. Commission Churchill explained: as secretary and living outside of town limits, Commissioner Derbyshire did not vote, in the previous reiteration of the by-laws. Tonight, there are 4 voting members present: Commissioners Churchill, M. Randall, E. Schildt and R. Hubbard. The commissioners bring a range of perspective on the opioid crisis. Commissioner Churchill proposed the following amendment to the by-laws: that least one TAC

commissioner be a community member in recovery from substance use disorder. This proposal passed (4:0) with the enthusiastic and full support of all commissioner's present.

Commission chairman Churchill next laid out the need to fill vacant TAC positions: the current situation is as follows:

Voting TAC Members (4+ Thurmont Residents)

Chairperson – J. Churchill

Vice Chair – M. Randall

Support and Recovery Pillar Lead – R. Hubbard

Education and Awareness Pillar Lead – E. Schildt

Prevention and Outreach Pillar Lead – Vacant

CHS Student – Vacant

Non-Voting members

Treasurer – Vacant

Secretary – Vacant (Commissioner Derbyshire (previous secretary), will fill in until this position is filled)

At-large member – Vacant

Thurmont BOC, *ex officio* – M. Burns

Our need is therefore:

Prevention & Outreach Pillar consideration/selection – voting member

CHS Student consideration/selection – voting member

Treasurer consideration/selection – non-voting member

Secretary consideration/selection – non-voting member

At-large member consideration/selection – non-voting member

Prevention & Outreach Pillar consideration/selection: this is a one-year position to complete the two-year term held for the first year by Commissioner Randall. Ms. Susan Crone nominated herself for this position as she already has some prevention and outreach activities in place through leadership of the teen group Fuse. Among the words spoken in support of Ms. Crone's nomination was that she was someone who the students were comfortable talking to, that she had connections in the community, and she had already, through the Fuse teen center, begun to build community among the youth. The commission voted unanimously to endorse Ms. Crone as the new Prevention & Outreach Pillar Lead. Commissioner Churchill reminded the newly elected Commissioner Crone that she could now vote as a full member of TAC.

The CHS Student consideration/selection was tabled to later in the meeting by which time the CHS student candidate under consideration was to join the meeting.

Commissioner Hubbard next updated the commission on progress made towards TAC having 501(c)3 status. She plans to be in touch with Ms. Vickie Grinder shortly and will email Commissioner Churchill once she has completed that task. The plan is for the "articles of incorporation" to be completed this month, and for the "IRS application" to be filed in November. Commissioner Churchill offered to convene a collective meeting of TAC to help if needed.

Commissioner E. Schildt updated TAC on the status of a compendium of local resources for TAC's recovery coaches, and for community members. Ms. K. Schildt and he plan to conduct a workshop to

this end. Format suggestions were made. All present were encouraged to send their resource collections electronically to Ms. K. Schildt ahead of the workshop.

Commissioner Churchill opened the topic of TAC having a presence at Catocin Colorfest this year. He informed us that TAC will have space at the old town office. If TAC chooses to focus on only distributing information there will be no charge, however if TAC sells anything a Colorfest permit will be required. A motion was made for TAC having a booth at Catocin Colorfest with information and at selling water bottles. The motion was seconded and passed with a vote of 5:0.

Commissioner M. Randall agreed to be the coordinator for TAC representation in Colorfest and Commissioner Churchill offered his assistance. Commissioner Churchill asked if there was any movement or interest in partnering with Safe & Sane? Commissioner M. Randall offered to continue conversation with Safe and Sane.

Town Commissioner Burns suggested contacting the food bank in order to borrow refrigerators to replenish water bottles and store bags of ice.

Support and Recovery Pillar update: Commissioner R. Hubbard updated the commission that progress was being made on the soon to open Recovery Community Center on Water street in Thurmont. It will be a stigma-free place for those struggling with mental illness, substance abuse, and homelessness, to get help in overcoming the challenges in a welcoming and supporting environment.

Education and Awareness Pillar updates – Commissioner E. Schildt updated the commission on the upcoming Awareness and Education events: Speaker series in September and October to be held in the town hall at 6:30. September speakers are: David Brooks (Brooks Behavioral Health Services) and Chasity Fox (The Music is Medicine Foundation) who will discuss their new services coming to Thurmont. October speakers are yet to be announced but will talk on the topic “harm reduction”. Commissioner E. Schildt also updated us on the program coming to the Catocin High School Auditorium, November 14 at 6:30pm. “An Introduction to the Enemy” plus stories of recovery from Shannon Garrett (Counselor and producer of “Introduction to the Enemy”) and Jam Alker (Musician and Song Writer). All were reminded that the world premiere for the documentary film Heroin’s Grip, a story about the heroin and opioid crisis in Frederick County, Maryland, will be held Sept 26th, at Frederick Community College

Prevention and Outreach Pillar update: Newly appointed Commissioner Crone explained that in her 31 years of teaching, she has lost students through alcohol, drug overdose and suicide, and that because of this she has worked with others to put together the local Fuse Teen Center. Commissioner Churchill suggested they keep track of numbers attending, she agreed and added they already were and could provide participation numbers. She added that the teen center creates a social support network and builds community. When asked if there was anything as a community we could do to support the center: she answered that “the biggest thing we could do is to bring a kid or offer to pick up a friends kid” she reminded the commission that “the hardest part for a youth is walking into the building that first time”. Commissioner Derbyshire commended her efforts and reminded everyone that a risk factor for addiction is the “lack of community, and isolation”.

Commissioner Derbyshire then mentioned the new Family and Friends support group run by Karen Schildt and herself, which had started up in Thurmont Sept 10th and had good attendance. It will run every second Monday of each month, starting at 7pm, at the Weller House.

Commissioner Churchill then opened the meeting to public comment:

Mr. Marty Burns was excited to hear about the Family and Friends support group starting up. He suggested that such announcements could be sent out with the electric bill. He added that TAC was doing a great job, and to keep it up.

Ms. Karen Schildt made the commission aware of the “America is FED U- a movement to end the opioid crisis” events running Sat-Sun October 6-7. The rally to be held in Washington D.C. is planned for Sunday Oct 7th 3-8:30pm, and several people are planning to car pool from Thurmont.

Ms. Schildt hopes that we will try to organize events next September 2019 around the theme “Thurmont goes purple” similar to “Washington Goes Purple Prevent Addiction Program” a substance abuse awareness program that would engage our community and youth to stand against substance abuse. She hopes for example that we would have lots of speakers throughout the month

Commissioner Churchill then brought the meeting back to earlier items as the Catocin High school student (Mark Rogers) under consideration for the student rep position had appeared.

Mr. Mark Rogers explained that he had been in Thurmont since 3rd grade and explained that he had seen how fatal overdoses hit the community hard and the affects they had on his classmates and teachers and he wanted to help. Commissioner Randal vouched for his character. Commissioner E. Schildt added how impressed he was by his concerns for his teachers. Commissioner Derbyshire noted she felt his passion to make a difference. A motion was made that Mark Rogers be considered for the student rep commissioner position. After a second for the motion it was passed 5:0.

Ms. Karen Schildt expressed personal interest in filling one of the remaining open positions on the commission. A motion was made to have her serve as Treasurer for 1 year, the motion passed 4:0 (with one person: Commissioner E. Schildt abstaining from the vote).

Note: this leaves one “at large” member (to be filled by someone in recovery from substance abuse), and the secretary position (Commissioner Derbyshire will fill the latter position until it is filled).

Commissioner Churchill concluded the meeting with the following comments: He asked that the pillars develop clearly defined goals by November. He encouraged community members to participate, to go to pillars meetings, to “hear what it is all about, and share things you hear”. Commissioner E. Schildt shared that he heard of swab test for those predisposed to opioid addiction. Commissioner Churchill invited people to come to future meetings.

Meeting adjourned 8:29.06