

Meeting Minutes
Thurmont Addiction Commission
October 11, 2018. 7pm- 8:07pm

Attendees:

Commissioner Jay Churchill	Commission Chair, Voting member
Commissioner Michael Randall	Commission Co-Chair, Voting member
Commissioner Rachel Hubbard	Voting member. Support and Recovery Pillar lead
Commissioner Edward Schildt	Voting member Education and Awareness Pillar lead
Commissioner Susan Crone	Voting member Prevention and Outreach Pillar lead
Commissioner Mark Rogers	Voting member Student representative
Commissioner Myra Derbyshire	Non-Voting member (alternate) Secretary
Commissioner Karen Schildt	Non-Voting member (alternate) Treasurer
Town Commissioner Martin Burns	Town Council Liaison
General public	

This meeting was televised.

Commission Chairman Churchill addressed the commission reminding all present that TAC is a commission of the town of Thurmont focused on the disease of addiction. TAC’s mission is NOT to take anything over, but to assist foundations and other efforts interested on providing resources to the town. He encouraged anyone in the room if they have something to say, to please say it, as TAC wants your input.

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

Commission Chairman Churchill, next reminded everyone that TAC now had by-laws, but that those by-laws were a living document and as such could be amended. He added that an amendment had already been passed at the last TAC meeting and would be filed officially with the town. That amendment is that a place be held on TAC for someone in active recovery from substance use disorder, and that such a position is now open for an “at-large” non-voting member in recovery. Commission Chairman Churchill continued that TAC is seeking an at large member from anyone an any stage of recovery from substance use disorder and that TAC welcomes their nomination. He asked if there was anyone present in the room who would like to hold this position. Mr. Mike Shilling was curious and asked what would be required of him if he were to take the position. Commission Chairman Churchill answered that it would require his voice, as a non-voting member, and he would be encouraged to attend the monthly TAC meeting. He added that TAC needs someone in recovery to add their perspective, and that TAC

welcomes diversity. Commissioner Churchill asked Mr. Shilling to share with TAC why he was interested in the position. Mr. Shilling responded that he was a person in long term recovery, a peer recovery specialist for the Frederick County Health Department, someone who knows what addiction can do and he wants to give back to the town he came from.

Commission Chairman Churchill then reminded everyone that Commissioner Derbyshire, having served as secretary for over a year, announced at the last meeting that she wants to step down from that position and he asked for anyone willing to serve as secretary for the remainder of the year to let us know. Commission Chairman Churchill asked for names for consideration. Commissioner Ed Schildt added that he would like a person who could expand the secretary position to communicate with the Catoclin Banner to translate the mins into articles, and possibly for publication in the Frederick News Post as well. Commissioner Derbyshire offered to remain in the position until it is filled.

Commission Chairman Churchill then added that Commissioner Hubbard would like to resign as Support and Recovery Pillar lead and devote her time to the upcoming Community Recovery center. He added that Myra Derbyshire has expressed interest in taking over the pillar lead.

Myra Derbyshire gave a 30 second speech in support of her nomination. Myra is a parent of a daughter in long term recovery, has been assisting Commissioner Hubbard in co-leading the Support and Recovery pillar for the last year and would like to follow through with some the initiatives they have put into action. She has become very familiar with harm reduction and has made active contacts with many resources around the area. She is trained as a peer recovery coach, leads a Nar-Anon support group and co-leads a Thurmont Family and Friends support group with Commissioners Karen and Ed Schildt.

Commissioner Chairman Churchill next inquired about the degree of completion of TAC's application for 501(c)3 status. Commissioner Hubbard, leading this initiative, had a document with her which she asked all voting members to sign and provide additional contact information.

Commissioner Ed Schildt had inquired of the town about what TAC should do with financial contributions offered prior to TAC being awarded 501(c)3 status. He was told he could endorse donations on the back with " TAC payable to Town of Thurmont" and sign it. All donations should go to TAC treasurer Commissioner Karen Schildt who will keep a tab on these monies, and the seed money provided to TAC from the town of Thurmont.

Commissioner Karen Schildt reported on the status of the resource compendium which she is putting together for to be made available for multiple user groups. She has collected information from many sources including City of Frederick and the Frederick County Health Department. She is developing this resource so that it will be useable in multiple formats for different purposes. This resource will include resource information for essential needs such as food, shelter, emergency services, dental services, transportation etc. She reminded the commission that it can't produce answers to every question, but can include many helpful local resources such as recovery treatment centers and some will be resources unique to Thurmont. She will email this document to everyone shortly and give a deadline for responses. She solicited additional TAC input as the goal is to have this document available to the public by January.

Prevention and Outreach Pillar update: Commissioner Crone updated the commission on the Fuse teen center. Since its inception she has worked with 94 different teens. Additional data include 239 teen visits and 20 volunteers contributing time to this important activity.

Support and Recovery Pillar update: Commissioner Hubbard talked about an upcoming Christmas bazaar on Dec 8, where kids would have an opportunity to choose presents for their families. This bazaar would include a visit by Mr. and Mrs. Claus and would serve as a fund raiser for the Community Recovery center opening soon. Commissioner Derbyshire reported on the status of the Harm Reduction Syringe exchange program initiative and the offering from the Frederick County Health department to bring what they referred to as soft services to Thurmont. She described the details of what they wanted to provide in these services, which would be limited to 3 hours (once a week or once a month, to be determined) and that they are seeking temporary space for this activity. She added that Ms. Jessica Ellis (health department) has shared details of this program with the Mayor and Town Commissioners. Commission Chair Churchill added that he wants to make sure that additional details are provided up front to ensure that the Mayor and Town Commissioners understand the nature of this program so that they can field questions from the community. The Commission agreed it was important to ensure that the Town Commission was fully apprised of the situation prior to launching.

Education and Awareness Pillar update: Commissioner Ed Schildt announced that the next speaker in the TAC education and awareness speaker series will be Ms. Rena Larkin and the topic will be dealing with the holidays and the associated triggers and stresses. He welcomed anyone to attend the speaker series. He updated TAC on the program coming to the Catoclin 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 B-RAiN (Musician and Song Writer, hip hop/rap artist) who will share inspirational stories of recovery and that recovery is possible). Commissioner Ed Schildt invited everyone to attend a planning session next Tues. He added that Rebecca Pearl will hold a paint night (also on Nov 14th), and that 15% of their proceeds will go towards TAC. He reminded everyone that there will be a second night of remembrance in December.

Student Rep: Commissioner Rogers reported that he had met with Ms. Debbie Wivell, the Catoclin High School CASS coordinator, and that together they are planning a number of events including indoor sporting events (he mentioned volleyball and basketball). They are planning to have a poster board outside the gym to share information with parents and other community members attending the games. The latter could also be a place to provide information about TAC and upcoming TAC meetings and events. Commissioner Schildt suggested using a portable table for displaying this information as well. Commissioner Rogers reported that Ms. Wivell will repeat last year's drug awareness poster contest with a focus on addiction and he suggested that perhaps TAC could support an effort to formally recognize the winners of that contest in the year book. He also mentioned the possibility of a float for the homecoming and carnival parades. Commissioner Crone offered to work with Commissioner Rogers on the events he was planning. Commissioner Rogers also mentioned that he is open to ideas. Commissioner Churchill thanked Commissioner Rogers adding that he had "set the bar high, and had done a nice job, and offered TAC's help in any way he needed.

Commissioners Churchill opened the floor for public comments. No public comments were offered.

Commissioner Churchill inquired about final plans for Catoclin Colorfest: Commissioner Randall asked for coverage for scheduling gaps to staff the TAC table. The TAC table will have addiction-related

literature for distribution, complementary water and a donation jar for TAC future projects. Commissioner Churchill encouraged everyone to stop over and hang out at the TAC table whenever they could, he felt it important to show that Thurmont is an involved community of people who will take time to talk about the addiction crisis.

Commissioner Churchill then asked if there were any additional items.

Commissioners Karen Schildt and Derbyshire reminded the commission and meeting participants that they have started a TAC family and friends support group which meets the second Monday of each month.

Commissioner Churchill then opened the meeting again to public comment:

Marty Burns suggested that TAC have a treasurer report every month, to capture anyone that donated to TAC, and to recognize these contributions formally. He added that it was amazing that someone is self-funding a support and recovery center for the community and privately starting their own non-profit effort. He recommended that they consider asking for a 1-year stipend from the town to “give them a boost”.

Commissioner Karen Schildt, treasurer, added that she will bring a report listing donation amounts to the next meeting so that TAC is completely transparent. She reminded TAC of suicide awareness and an upcoming walk for suicide.

Commissioner Churchill concluded the meeting by reminding TAC that it really needs to focus on aspirational goals and that the pillars need to establish concrete goals with a plan to work towards those goals through the next year. He needs all three pillars to be working thoughtfully forward.

Meeting adjourned at 8:07pm