

Community Meeting Minutes

May 16, 2023

In attendance: (21) Sally, Felisha, Rob, Jason, Tobi, Tara, Trish, Michelle, Thea, Sam, Melissa, Shannon, Ty, Karen, Toby, Mary, Kris, Theresa, Stacy, Addie, Raequin

Meeting Structure:

The meeting structure for the Monthly Staff Run Committee Meeting is that the facilitator Trish Lane, along with the Co-Facilitators Stacy's Wilbur and Felisha C., guide the meeting by discussing the monthly feedback from the members given during the Weekly Member Run Community Meetings on Tuesdays at 12 noon. The staff is given the chance to answer these questions, followed by back and forth feedback and discussions with members. We have a speaker today. Mary came with her German Shepard to discuss how he became her Service Dog and how he supports her and she supports him.

Group Ideas and Ideas for Groups Members, possible Volunteer opportunities:

Trip ideas brought up today were, OA Overeaters Anonymous, Healthy Eating Group, Arts and Crafts Group, and LGBTQ+ Group. A signup sheet was created today for group ideas for members to communicate with each other and to keep track of who was interested. This signup sheet with members' contact information, which they agreed to share with other members, can be found in Stacy's office for anyone who would like a copy.

Trip Ideas:

Trip ideas that were brought up today were Salem MA, Ashuelot Park to Wheelock Park Walk, Orchard Apple Picking in the Fall, and a Picnic with PB and J sandwiches as an option. A signup sheet was created today for trip ideas for members to communicate with each other and to keep track of who was interested. This signup sheet with members' contact information, which they agreed to share with other members, can be found in Stacy's office for anyone who would like a copy.

Speaker Ideas for March 21st 4-5pm (Our next Staff Run Community Meeting):

Mary was here to speak about her German Shepherd Service Dog. She discussed her journey from isolation to freedom through her relationship with her service dog. She discussed the process of becoming a service dog and the tasks they learn. She also discussed the difference between a service dog and a support animal. She ended with opening up the room to questions. A packet explaining all of the information and more was left and can be copied for anyone who would like a copy.

What is going well?

Some of the things that the members said are going well are Karen's leadership, Eating Disorder and Body Image Group, MPS as a whole, Peer Support, Staff Interactions, Amanda's Energy, and Groups in general are going well.

What could improve?

Some items that were brought up that could be improved were to have staff that are there for you (Night Staff), Better Groups, Starting Groups on Time We discussed which groups need stricter guidelines to start on time. We discussed asking ahead of the group if you can come late, Also discussed cut off times for groups of 15 minutes, we decided Stacy and Trish would go over the guidelines for all the groups and decide which groups need stricter guidelines and which can be more open. Then in the next Member Run Community Meeting Trish can bring the decision on which groups back to the members for a discussion. The last item discussed is that members would like to know which facilitators will be running a group. Maybe in a posting or list.

Changes/ Announcements:

Floating Lanterns Event will be on Saturday May 20th from 5:30 to 8:30pm at Alyson's Orchard in Walpole, NH.