**Draft Minutes of the Treasure Chest Committee**

May 11, 2023: 5:00 PM

Harwich Town Hall: Griffin Room

Committee Members Present: Eric Fahle, Sheila Eldridge, Ellie Gerson, Mary Moody, Reenie Davis and Cindy Beaulieu

Alt. Committee Member Present: Jean Bulger

Selectmen Present: None

Treasure Chest Volunteers Present: None

Others Present: Linda Cohen, Dave Nixon

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1. Quorum:

A quorum of Treasure Chest Committee members was present at the meeting and the meeting was opened.

2. Pledge of Allegiance:

The Pledge of Allegiance was said by those in attendance.

3. Old Business:

**Meeting Minutes: March 9, 2023:**

Treasure Chest Committee members were asked to read the draft Treasure Chest Committee meeting minutes of March 9, 2023, for acceptance by the Committee. After the Committee members had a chance to review the draft minutes, Eric asked for a motion to accept the Treasure Chest Committee meeting minutes of March 9, 2023. Sheila made the motion to accept the minutes. Ellie 2nd the motion and the Treasure Chest Committee voted unanimously to accept the minutes of March 9, 2023.

**Review of the Treasure Chest Operational Guidelines:**

Ellie discussed a suggested change to the Treasure Chest Operational Plan/Guidelines. The TCC Operational Plan/Guidelines states that: ***The Treasure Chest is staffed by Volunteers and is open to Harwich residents on each Saturday and Sunday from 9:00 AM to 3:00PM throughout the year except on Christmas Day, New Years Day and Easter should these dates fall on a Saturday or Sunday, or due to inclement weather***. Ellie discussed Volunteer staffing shortages during the Winter months and operational challenges in preparing to open the Treasure Chest during Winter months. Ellie determined that due to limited Volunteer staff available during the Winter combined with the challenges of opening in the morning during the Winter that the Treasure Chest should open at 10:00AM instead of 9:00AM. The Committee members agreed with Ellie’s assessment. Accordingly, Ellie proposed that the language TCC Operational Plans/Guidelines be revised as follows: ***The Treasure Chest is staffed by volunteers. It is open to Harwich residents on Saturday and Sunday. Hours are 9:00 AM - 3:00 April - December. Winter Hours 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM January, February & March. Closures will be Christmas, New Year’s Day and Easter. Inclement weather will necessitate closing***. The suggested revision would occur in paragraph 3 and Operational Guideline No. 3 of the Treasure Chest Operational Plan/Guidelines. Eric made a motion to recommend the suggested changes to the Selectmen. Ellie 2nd the motion and the Committee voted unanimously to recommend the suggested amendment to the Treasure Chest Operational Plan/Guidelines for their authorization and approval.

**Stickers:**

Vehicles with red stickers will be allowed entrance to the Treasure Chest until June 30th. After that, only the vehicles with green stickers shall be allowed entrance to the Treasure Chest. There will be no selling of stickers at the entrance to the Treasure Chest. Stickers can be purchased at the Harwich Community Center for $5.00 or at the Chamber of Commerce for $5.00 plus a $3.00 fee.

3. New Business**:**

**Recognition of Larry Ballantine for His Guidance and Leadership as the Selectmen’s Liaison to the Treasure Chest Committee:**

The Treasure Chest Committee recognized Selectmen Larry Ballantine for his guidance and leadership as the Selectmen’s liaison to the Treasure Chest Committee. Selectmen Ballantine clearly understood the challenges faced by the Treasure Chest Committee in preparing an Operational Plan and Guidelines for acceptance by the Selectmen and having the Selectmen vote to authorize reopening of the Treasure Chest facility. Nonetheless, Larry believed in the mission of the Treasure Chest and knew how important the Treasure Chest was to the community. Without Selectman Ballantine’s efforts, the Treasure Chest would not have reopened and would simply be a memory. Larry attended nearly every one of the Committee’s meetings and his presence and participation on this Committee will truly be missed.

**Celebrations:**

A celebration at the Treasure Chest facility to commemorate the following three events was discussed by the Treasure Chest Committee:

* One year anniversary of the reopening of the Treasure Chest,
* Beverly Gomes who has been a Treasure Chest Volunteer for many years was turning 90, and
* Dedication of the Liz Watkins Memorial Bench.

The Committee agreed that a celebration was in order and Ellie said she would check with the Treasure Chest Volunteers to find a date to hold the celebration.

**Inventory of Treasure Chest Volunteers Who have Keys to Access the Treasure Chest:**

Several of the Treasure Chest Volunteers have keys which allow access to the Treasure Chest facility grounds and building. However, there is currently no inventory of the Treasure Chest Volunteers who have keys. Some of the keys are originals and others are copies. It was the consensus of the Committee that an inventory of the Treasure Chest Volunteers and Committee members who have keys be taken.

**Harassment of Treasure Chest Volunteers:**

An incident occurred during the afternoon shift of April 22nd where a Treasure Chest customer, who was once a Treasure Chest Volunteer, was being disruptive throwing donated items at some of the Volunteers who were working the afternoon shift. The same customer showed up the next morning during operations and continued to be disruptive throwing donated items at some of the Volunteers who were working the morning shift. Some of these Volunteers feel that this customer is harassing them and threatening them. They want to see this customer banned from the Treasure Chest so these actions will stop. Audience member Dave **Nixon** thought that no Volunteer should feel threatened. The police should be contacted if there is an issue. Link Hooper was made aware of the incident. At the present time Link would prefer not to have to ban the individual from the Treasure Chest. Also due to lack of time a second incident could not be documented and was moved to our next meeting. Discuss actions to resolve this issue at our next meeting.

4. Set Dates for Next Meetings:

The Treasure Chest Committee scheduled the next meeting for June 29, 2023, at 5:00 PM in the Small Room at Town Hall.

5. Adjournment:

A motion was made by Sheila and Ellie 2nd the motion to adjourn the meeting and the Treasure Chest Committee adjourned their meeting at 5:46 PM.