



## AmeriCorps Cape Cod

### Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

#### **I. Call to Order**

- a. Ms. Hutchinson called to order the meeting of the AmeriCorps Cape Cod Advisory Board at 9:05 am on Friday, September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2020 held virtually via Zoom.

#### **II. Attendance**

- a. Members present: John Ohman, Brian Sharp, Jessica Whritenour, Nancy Church, Lauren McKean, Heather McElroy, Rachel Hutchinson, Steve McKenna, Timothy Famulare, Michael Lach, Ryan Burch, Phillip Burt, Ronald Beaty, Nina Coleman
- b. Members Absent: Hillary Greenberg-Lemos

#### **III. Public Comment- N/A**

#### **IV. Approval of Minutes**

- a. Meeting of July 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020- will approve at the next meeting in January.

#### **V. General Business**

- a. Advisory board member renewal
  - i. Ms. McKean informed the board Ms. Greenberg-Lemos will be stepping down from the board.
  - ii. Mr. McKenna will reup for his next term.

#### **VI. Staff Updates**

- a. Phillip Burt-Director Update:
  - i. Mr. Burt, the Director of the Cape Cod Center for Public Safety Training, will be overseeing the AmeriCorps Cape Cod Program moving forward. His main role will be to support the AmeriCorps Staff and assist with strategic planning for the program moving forward.



- b. Kayla Baier-Program Coordinator Update:
  - i. Mr. Ohman asked what the Covid-19 testing procedure looked like for the members prior to them coming into the program. Ms. Baier replied that members are required to produce a negative test within 72 hours of moving in any of the program residences.
  - ii. Mr. Ohman asked if the members would be tele-serving moving forward and what group service looks like. Ms. Baier replied that members will be kept in their residential “pods” at group service. There will be no more than 8 members at group service, and members will serve following AmeriCorps group service policies of masking up and social distancing.
- c. Meredith Ballinger-Program Specialist Update:
  - i. Ms. Ballinger said the biggest challenge with training so far has been using teams instead of zoom for virtual trainings. Teams does not have the same capabilities as zoom, such as breakout rooms, that would improve virtual training engagement.
    - 1. Mr. Sharp asked if it was a licensing issue for zoom and if another organization could set it up.
    - 2. Mr. Beat shared that the delegates use Zoom for their meeting.
    - 3. Mr. Yunis said Billy Travis from IT can help set zoom up for us moving forward.
- d. Dan Flockton-Program Supervisor Upper Cape Update:
  - i. Mr. Flockton shared that the members in good spirits despite learning how to navigate the weird virtual training.
- e. Derek Brudahl-Program Supervisor Outer Cape:
  - i. Mr. Brudahl has been busy setting up the new AmeriCorps residence in Chatham.
- f. New business
  - i. County restructuring
    - 1. Mr. Burt shared that he is looking to provide additional support to the AmeriCorps program. He is not looking to shift the program focus areas at all but hopes to be of assistance concerning the disaster preparedness area of the program. In the past Mr. Burt provided the disaster preparedness training component of the program and holds a lot of institutional knowledge. He said



there is a lot of support coming from the board, the County, for AmeriCorps to fall under his department.

2. Mr. Beaty said that he would like to hear from Mr. Yunits and the rest of the AmeriCorps board to hear what they think of the restructuring process. He noted that AmeriCorps Cape Cod does have a disaster aspect, but it is much smaller than the environmental focus. He would like to know if AmeriCorps Cape Cod would fit better under the Cooperative Extension.
3. Mr. Yunits shared the Extension does not feel like they have the time or personal capacity to provide adequate support to the program. However, he said the Extension does want to continue to train and support AmeriCorps Cape Cod member regarding environmental areas of concern on the Cape. Mr. Yunits noted there is discussion surrounding bringing back the fire corps to cope with recent environmental changes we have seen regarding drought conditions and the wildfires out west.
4. Mr. Platt shared that everyone supports the program but there is a need for oversight and support from a department head for strategic and long-term planning. He shared there is a lot that goes into running four houses, managing members, staff, equipment, ect. That one person cannot do all of those responsibilities and also do long term planning.
5. Mr. Beaty asked the board if there was a consensus about supporting the move for AmeriCorps.
  - a. Mr. Famulare and Mr. Ohman supported the move.
  - b. Ms. Hutchinson noted there is a strong consensus that the move sounds like a good idea.

## ii. Fire Mitigation Discussion

1. Mr. Platt shared that he has a background with the retired fire corps program, serving as a fire corps member and ACC Program Specialist. The towns saw a benefit from the fire corps- not just the National Seashore. Mr. Platt said when the fire corps was disbanded- he saw there was a need that could be utilized by a “disaster corps” to provide service at large scale natural resource management projects using.



- a. Mr. Burt asked Mr. Platt to describe the trailer they hope to purchase is and what it can used for?
  - i. Mr. Platt shared the trailer has been used for fire mitigation purposes for many years in the northeast. There is enough gear for a 10-person crew conducting a prescribed burn training. There is the ability to bring this trailer to any conservation land and bring a crew out to do a prescribed burn.
  - ii. Mr. Beaty clarified that it costs 75,000\$ for the trailer?
  - iii. Mr. Platt confirmed the cost of the trailer and shared that this equipment is worth at least 200,000\$.
- b. Ms. McKean shared that over the years, AmeriCorps Cape Cod has been taken advantage of and there is a need some real leadership and support to the program. She said that Mr. Yunits has done a great job supporting them recently. The National Seashore has been discussing with AmeriCorps the possibility of utilizing a Herring River Restoration Corps to start/ support the herring river restoration project in the upcoming year.
- c. Mr. Yunits noted that Ms. Baier has done a great job over the last couple months- and has been under an unbelievable amount of stress juggling program responsibilities during a pandemic.
- d. Mr. Ohman said he is a big supporter of the fire corps and is intrigued by the herring river restoration project. He asked if there would be housing available out in the Seashore for this idea of a new corps?
  - i. Ms. McKean shared that the Seashore would explore more housing options for the Herring River Restoration corps.
  - ii. Mr. Platt noted that we would want to revisit finding more housing for members noting that putting more people in housing can be very difficult. We would need to take into consideration additional costs for more housing.

## **VII. Board Member Updates**

- a. Ms. McKean asked Ms. Baier to give an update the work that has gone on on the Lehac property.
  - i. Ms. Baier shared that the shed has been an ongoing process. MIA (the house insurance) flagged Lehac and said the shingles on the house need attention. There are a lot of extra



things that need to go into play here taking historical buildings into consideration. The roofs, shingles, siding needed special attention. Barnstable County Facilities has been working to replace these shingles over the past couple weeks.

- b. Ms. Hutchinson asked if the program would take into consideration restructuring group service projects to have more days in the field for group service if COVID takes a turn?
  - i. Ms. Baier responded that the program would be open to changing up what service looks like if COVID does take a turn for the worse.
- c. Mr. Ohman asked if Ms. McKean can stay on the board with her institutional knowledge?
  - i. Ms. McKean shared she plans on continuing to support this board and the program- but as a nonvoting member.
- d. Ms. Hutchinson asked if there was a way the Advisory board can meet the members?
  - i. Ms. Baier shared that if we had access to Zoom, it would be easier to host a meet and greet.
  - ii. Mr. Beaty shared that he will check in with IT about getting IT to give the program more access to Zoom
- e. Ms. Hutchinson shared board members can send individual comments back to Kayla but we (the board) can't make comments as a group.
- f. Ms. Baier shared that the swearing in ceremony still remained up in the air. She was debating between having the ceremony virtually or organizing a small gathering outside?

## **VIII. Upcoming Meetings**

- a. January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2021

## **IX. Adjournment**

- a. Mr. McKenna motioned to adjourn the meeting at 10:11. Mr. Beaty seconded the motion.