

DRUG TASK FORCE
Meeting Minutes
January 4, 2017 – 7:00 PM

Selectmen's Hearing Room – 2nd Floor, Marshfield Town Hall

Meeting Attendees: Tom Sullivan, Julie Keohane, Tricia Bolger, Artie Shaw, Julie Adams, Dick Stenson, Bud Cipullo, Cara Contos, Al Driscoll, Bill Hocking, Mimi Walker (WATD)

Tom Sullivan opened the meeting at 7:00pm and announced that Julie Keohane would be providing initial updates to the group, specifically:

- Retired Marshfield boxer and town pride; Manny Lopes passed away on December 31st, losing his battle with drugs and depression. The Lopes family is overwhelmingly adored by the town of Marshfield, and there was deep discussion around plans for a Vigil to take place on Saturday, January 7th from 5-7pm at Dandelion Park. There was praise for Manny's father; Wayne, and how he spoke up at a recent DFT meeting, and also wrote a touching article about his son's problems and passing in the Patriot Ledger: <http://www.patriotledger.com/news/20170103/marshfield-boxer-manny-lopes-loses-battle-with-drugs-depression>, Plans have been pre-approved by the town and DTF to donate flags and candles for the event. **Due to the Blizzard that hit on Saturday, January 7th, the Vigil was postponed until further notice.*
- The Lopes family has asked that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to the Drug Task Force so that Manny's name will be honored for his character and accomplishments, and so that he can continue to give back to the community by supporting efforts towards substance abuse awareness, education and prevention. There was an initial discussion on how to best utilize the funds, but this is to be a continued conversation. The Selectman's Office is going to handle setting up a bank account for funds and donations.
- The Police and Fire update included 4 overdoses in the month of December. One was unsuccessful; Manny Lopes. Two were of the same individual who received project outreach support services and ultimately got section 35'd by the Marshfield Police.
- Just last night, there were two overdoses within the Spectrum Drug and Alcohol Treatment Facility in Weymouth.
- Cara Contos, a MHS graduate and Pediatrics Nurse at Boston Medical Center was in attendance for the first time and expressed her interest in helping. She discussed the huge increase in babies being born with addiction issues and needing detox. The average number went from 3 babies per day to 11. For many young mothers, the drug of choice is Klonopin.
- There was a long discussion about how the DFT can help increase awareness of our group throughout town. There is also a need for better education in the school system. Some ideas that were discussed include:
 - Tom, Tricia and Julie discussed an initiative to get the schools more involved of meetings and events related to substance abuse. Tom to follow up with the Superintendent to see if notifications can be sent home in backpacks (intended mainly for parents) and/or if mention can be made during phone-announcement calls to families. Tricia to follow up with the PTO of the five elementary schools.
 - Marshfield Kiwanis mentioned a Project Voice project – where cameras are given to students to take pictures for awareness of child activities. *Dick mentioned getting Key Club involved (Joan Wool heads this up) in upcoming meetings. And/or other students

(Captain of sports teams, etc) to participate as well – in an effort to get a fresh perspective of what's going on with our youth.

- Tricia suggested creating rack cards for popular spots in town frequently visited by addicts (gas station bathrooms, Tedeschis, Coffee Shops, etc). These take-away cards would be an awareness campaign and would offer support services for addicts and include our logo, a few local detox and treatment facilities. Tricia to drum up a few drafts for the next meeting.
- Meeting adjourned at 8:00PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Tricia Bolger, Secretary
Marshfield Drug Task Force

Please note that the Board or Committee may act on agenda items in a different order than they appear on this agenda excepting for duly noticed and advertised public hearings which are scheduled for a specific date and time on the agenda which shall begin on or after the scheduled times.

Persons interested are advised that, in the event any general agenda matter taken up at this meeting remains unfinished at the close of the meeting, it may be put off to a continued session of this meeting without further notice by mail or publication. In the event a public hearing which has started remains unfinished at the close of the meeting, the Board or Committee may continue the matter to date and time certain with or without further notice by mail or publication.