

Task Force on Homelessness

September 13, 2012: Meeting Highlights

Dory Waxman reviewed the upcoming proposed schedule to hold a public hearing in October followed by a Council Workshop and then final presentation to the City Council in November.

Tom McLaughlin presented his review of residency requirements by shelters and learnings that can be applied to the Task Force recommendations. Maine law has no minimum day requirement to be considered a resident of Maine. Tom noted that there is much national debate over residency requirements. Lawsuits are pending in several states. Washington, DC passed a requirement, but data shows that the number of people who are homeless increased from 6546 in 2011 to 6900 in 2012 despite the requirement.

Based on his research, Tom concluded that there is no evidence that punitive measures decrease homelessness.

The Task Force then discussed the draft report.