

‘THE ELBOW CAY RESTORATION COMMITTEE’  
MINUTES OF MEETING – Conference call with Hope Town United

DATE & TIME: JAN 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020 – 3:03PM – 4:04PM

LOCATION: The Thompson Group Office

CALL TO ORDER: Reinhold Probst

ATTENDEES:

Board Members Present:

Frank Knowles, Carol Lyn Terrels, Kristina Malone, Stafford Patterson, Scott Patterson, James Boyce, Lana Russell, Mari Matthews, Reinhold Probst, Monica Cook, Andrew Charles, Junior Mernard

Hope Town United Reps. On Call: - Matt Winslow & Brian Malone

AGENDA: The Elbow Cay Restoration Committee to gather facts, and establish working relationship with HTU.

**1. Fact-Finding, Initial Inquiries and Information Gathering by the Committee - HTU**

- Frank answered the call and began conversation with introduction of board members.
- Stafford led the call informing Matt and Brian that the Committee’s intent is to gather as much information from them as possible for dissemination out into the community. Stafford also informed HTU that the Committee wishes to learn what projects are currently underway, who is working on these projects, and what those individual’s/groups commitments are.
- Matt suggested giving the Committee a walk-through of HTU’s efforts the last few months and HTU’s structure.
- HTU was involved in the early stages of evacuation and rescue.
- HTU’s initial goal/thoughts for their organization was to be more focused on Restoration versus Recovery. There were 3 key projects that they were focused on very early on. Those projects: The Hope Town Primary School, The Hope Town Clinic and Utilities solution.
- Matt stated that their reason for focusing on a utility solution was due to the fact he has a hospitality project approved on island, and he felt that they as a family had a considerable amount of leverage that they could use with central government around utilities.

- Matt stated that they were informed that Hope Town Fire and Rescue was responsible for the recovery phase, so this was the reason for HTU's focus on the permanent restoration.
- Brian Malone was on island approx. 3 weeks after the storm and encouraged the council to form a community advisory board to head these efforts.
- Hope Town Council Members John Pinder & Debbie Patterson reached out to Matt/HTU with the expressed need to have a Disaster Recovery expert on island. There were 3 individuals that Hope Town Council asked HTU to vet for this position. The three Names: – Gary Nessler (contact of Chris and Holly Thompson), Wynn Flatten (recommend to HTU through the Boston Consulting Group), & Help.NGO (approached HTU since they were on ground in Man O War)
- With Hope Town Councils request for HTU to VET these person, Matt & Brian among their networks did their best to decide the better solution. The pros and cons of the decision: Gary Nessler's cost was approx. \$500K - \$600K for initial assessment only. Wynn Flatten was just one person. Help.NGO said that they would come in with 3-4 people and would hire community members.
- Matt stated that Hope Town Council made the decision to go with Help.NGO for 3 months.
- Help.NGO's first payment of \$100K was paid by HTU and HTVFR equally. There is a balance owed to Help.NGO in the amount of \$75K that HTU will fund.
- HTU has 5 main projects that brings them to today. – School, Public docks, Low cost or no cost Home rebuilds for local year-round residents that have lost their homes, and utilities.
- \$125K on hand to fund the Dock project from United Way of Palm Beach and Palm Beach County community foundation. HTU is willing to make the difference of the cost to rebuild the 3 docks if no one else does.

### **HTU & ECRC Committee's Thoughts and Discussion on Help.NGO**

- Matt mentioned it was thought that HTU was/is intrinsically linked to Help.NGO but he said that is not the case.
- Stafford for the Committee on Help.NGO – We feel that we can no longer afford them. We are as a community now equipped to take over their scope of work. The Committee does not see a need for Help.NGO to be on island any longer.

- HTU is willing to fund the Cash for work program, and The Committee supports this program. Going forward this is an aspect that the Committee will handle.
- HTU/Matt's Family has donated \$250K to SP toward Debris Removal

The Committee thanks Brian and Matt for their time and the call with HTU ended at 3:53PM.

Communications will be ongoing and these are all initial notes on insight gained this far.

NEXT MEETING: Meeting of the Executive Board: Jan 21, 20, - 2:00 Great Escape (Residence of Ingrid Elliott)

MEETING ADJOURNED: 4:04PM

MINUTES COMPILED: Kristina Malone – Committee Secretary

Minutes Approved by ECRC board 01/22/2020