

**Syria-Antigonish Families Embrace
Steering Committee Meeting**

March 9, 2021
7:30-8:30 pm
Online Zoom

Present: Mark Ballard, Mary Ballard, Jack Beaton, Marla Gaudet, Hatem Ghouma, Sheila Sears, Othman Soufan, Peter Wade

Regrets: Harry Daemen

Minutes

Agenda Item: Recent Requests

Discussion:

Alaa Hadhad—family of 2—application almost ready to be submitted

Yasser Almashhoud—family of 5, fully funded, full settlement support.

Toufic Al Zhouri—SAFE does not have the capacity to accept this request at this time. Suggest researching other immigration routes.

Riyad Ibrahim—parents and 21 year old brother-in-law/cousin (linked application), fully funded. If they go directly to Halifax how would SAFE provide settlement support and oversight?

Alaa Abo Alhawa—family of 8

Actions:

Jack moved that Yasser Almashhoud's request be accepted to be sponsored by SAFE.

Seconded by Sheila.

All in favour.

Lucille will contact Yasser and provide him with the application forms.

Sheila moved that we accept Riyad Ibrahim's parents and cousin to settle in Antigonish.

Seconded by Bronwen.

All in favour.

Sheila will contact Marilyn with the Unitarian Church SAH in Halifax to see if they would be able to act as an overseer for SAFE if the family settles in Halifax instead of Antigonish.

Lucille will contact Riyad after Sheila talks to Marilyn.

Agenda Item: Financial Review

Sheila Sears

Discussion:

Sheila received some feedback from the financial review.

- Because accounting cannot account for cash, Sheila recommends that we do not receive large amounts of cash (more than \$500) in donations or otherwise
- It was suggested that a contingency fund is moved into a Term Deposit so that we have a fund that is always available if needed. Expenses will be paid from our main account and the Term Deposit can be withdrawn if funds are needed.

Actions:

Sheila moved that SAFE expresses a preference to donors to receive funds of any kind by cheque or e-transfer. Cash donations must be receipted and amounts larger than \$500 must be approved by the Steering Committee.

Seconded by Mark Ballard.

All in favour.

Sheila moved that we move \$6000 for a contingency fund into a Term Deposit.

Seconded by Jack.

All in favour.

Agenda Item: Next Meeting

April 13, 2021.
