The mediation work group consisted of Councilors Molly MacAuslan, and Caitlin Jordan with staff support from Ben McDougal, citizens; Todd Ketcham, Shelia Mayberry, Catherine Miller, and Stanley Wisniewski. The work group has met three times after an initial meeting between MacAuslan, McDougal, and Jordan, where it was decided to reach out to citizens within the mediation field that may be able to contribute insight.

Our goal was to explore how a mediation process might best serve our community.

In our attempts to achieve our goal we looked at and discussed issues ranging from

* How mediation would be used within the municipal departments, public safety, as well as school department.
* Who would participate in the program, both who would seek mediation, and who would do the mediating?
* What would the potential cost be to the town or participants
* Would the process be mandatory or voluntary
* Examining the best practice standards of mediation including but not limited to; liability, conflicts, ethics, and privacy.

The members of our group were all professional in the field of mediation, and we were able to be joined by the Director of Volunteers of America Elaine Bourne and the Director of Opportunity Alliance Karen Groat, to assist in our knowledge gathering and understanding. During our meeting we learned, that there is a substantial amount of free or nominal fee mediation services available to our citizens already. That the creation of awareness and education may serve our citizens far greater than tiring to recreate our own program within our small community.

We therefore put forth the following recommendations

1. That resources (posters, brochures) be made available to the public at such places as, the library, the police station, neighborhood associations, schools, and places of faith, to list a few, that would create awareness of the availability of mediation services.
2. Add a link to the towns website to Volunteers of American and Opportunity Alliance under a mediation heading as services available to our citizens
3. Take advantage of the offer by the Directors of Volunteers of America and Opportunity Alliance to come and talk with the department heads about the mediation services currently available as well as their referral process.
4. Request a new practice by the police, code enforcement and other applicable departments, in which they begin referring those they feel could benefit from mediation to either Volunteers of American or Opportunity Alliance.