

Committee on Aging
Zoom Meeting
March 11, 2021
Minutes

Present: Ted Trainer, ch; Marti Hess-Pomber, Linda Sentner, Judy Metcalf, Molly Hoadley, Karen Winton (Town Liaison), Alaina LeBlanc Tridente (Chamber of Commerce), Blake Baldwin (Select Board), Mike Pardue (Town Manager)

Excused: Danielle Bonney, Susan Aubuchon, Candice Simeoni

Zoom Meeting called to order by the chair at 3:35pm.

Draft Minutes of February 11, 2021 Meeting approved by a vote of 4-0, with 2 members not present, and one unable to vote because of technical issues..

Discussion with Town staff on support they want from the Committee. Karen Winton reviewed the Committee-Town history and the difficulties in developing joint projects. She then suggested the Committee develop a Resource Guide of interest to the older population. Alaina pointed out that the Chamber publications cover much of this and Molly noted 211 covers more, but there was agreement that an additional Resource Guide might be a useful addition to the informational materials available to Kennebunk residents. There was additional discussion about the format, such as online and/or hard copy or refrigerator cards. Marti offered to prepare a proposal for discussion at our April meeting. The Committee enthusiastically agreed to this proposal.

Blake Baldwin suggested the Committee host monthly “Did You Know? Presentations in the senior living and Avesta Housing facilities. He also suggested a revival of the Welcome Wagon, in cooperation with the Kennebunk Newcomers Club. The Committee agreed to discuss at the April meeting.

Mike Pardue suggested the Committee act as “Community Ambassadors.”

It was pointed out by several participants that support for Candice Simeoni’s work will continue. It was noted that Committee members were the main volunteer group at her Kennebunk Meals-To-Go event in February.

Discussion of 2021 State Age-Friendly Strategic Plan. Ted Trainer read out a list of possible program strategies for the Committee and Town to consider that were highlighted in the State Plan:

- Promote awareness that older people are both an economic resource for local businesses and a pool of community service volunteers. To this end, the Committee has cooperated with the senior job fairs organized by the Chamber of Commerce and the Hospitality industry.
- Scam protection. To this end the Committee’s continues to support for the work of Candice Simeoni.
- Combat Ageism. No formal actions yet taken.

- Informed and enhanced access to health and social services. The Resource Guidebook would contribute to this need, but Ted noted much more can be done such as education about early detection of cognitive decline and falls prevention services.
- Safe and Affordable Housing. Ted noted the Comprehensive Plan, currently being finalized, requires a plan for maintaining the legal minimum of affordable housing construction. He dwelled on a particular aspect -education and services related home modification. He suggested building a coalition of private contractors, interested volunteer organization, Kennebunk Police, UNE Physical Therapy students and falls prevention programs to effectively reduce the number one reason for house calls by the Police Department.
- Accessible outdoor spaces and recreation. To this end the Town has been very proactive.
- Public Transportation and sidewalks. Ted noted there is room for further work on this objective.

There was no discussion on this presentation.

Other Business: Molly Hoadley presented some of the operational challenges with the Medical Equipment Loan Closet, for which the Town's assistance was needed. The Town Manager agreed to follow up.

Meeting adjourned at 4:55 pm.

Next Meeting: April 8, 2021 at 3:30 pm.

Submitted by: Linda Sentner, Secretary.