

Committee on Aging  
Minutes  
August 8 meeting

Present: Ted Trainer, Susan Aubuchon, Linda Sentner, Judith Metcalf, Molly Hoadley

Guests: Mike Pardue, Chris Osterreider, Blake Baldwin

1. Added to the Minutes from July 11 meeting: the suggestion for Kennebunk Free Library to be considered to administer the Medical Equipment Loan Closet. Minutes approved as amended.
2. Ted announced that according to Smart Assets Inc Kennebunk was rated the #1 place to retire in the state and the #36th place to retire in the US.
3. Presentation by Mary Hadlock, Director of Volunteers at SMAA
  - Mary has been at SMAA for 11 years, 1 year in current job
  - They have a small grant to help Age Friendly Communities
  - Mary gave the committee kudos. Said we are ahead of many other towns.
  - SMAA has the RSVP program and the Foster Grandparent Program
  - There are 612 volunteers in York and Cumberland counties.
  - Some towns have found great benefit from a Social Worker being embedded in the town.
  - There was a discussion about how the committee should also focus on getting seniors engaged and active in the community to counter isolation and depression.
  - Getting Parks and Recreation Department was encouraged.
  - SMAA could help Kennebunk recruit volunteers. They would use media, United Way, their newsletter, Senior News, to help recruit. They also have software that may help. They could also do background checks (costs of background check at town's expense). There is no cost to this help.
  - Everyone agreed that many people do not know what SMAA offers. There was a discussion about how to spread the word in our town about what they do. The cable channel will be explored to publicize what SMAA and the town are doing. A different service could be highlighted each month. Everyone agreed this would be beneficial.
  - There is a cost to subscribe to SMAA's newsletter but copies are distributed around town. It was suggested they be left at the town offices.
  - Mary provided data about the number of inquiries SMAA receives from Kennebunk. Inquiries about caregivers was very high. Medicare inquiries were also high. Mary can provide a quarterly breakdown of those numbers.
  - It was suggested that a liaison from SMAA could attend our meetings. This was well received.
  - It was suggested that SMAA present to the local retirement communities.
  - Kennebunk does support SMAA annually.
3. Recruitment of New Committee Members
  - There are currently 4 openings
  - Sassy Stallman has resigned. **Mike Pardue would like an email to make this official. Ted will send him an email.**
  - Ted informed us of the interest by Tracy Moore in our Committee. She is director of services for older refugees for Catholic Charities.
  - The Senior Center intends to be represented once their staffing situation gets settled.

- Neal Davis from Huntington Commons was mentioned as someone who may be a good addition.
- **Mike Pardue will speak with someone at the Center to find out how they are doing and to understand where the FISH program stands.**
- **Ted will speak with Tony Spalding, Board Chair at the Center, for an update on the Center.**

#### 4. MELC

- From 1/1/19 to now there have been 275 calls and 378 pieces of equipment loaned.
- Half of the inventory has been donated to Partners for Health and LifeFlight.
- Help from guys at KP&L for carrying equipment would be appreciated.
- Linda reminded everyone that she is available to help man the phones.

#### 5. Transportation Update

- The ITN grant with DOT is going forward. Town should apply soon, if interested.
- It was suggested to get Parks and Recreation Department involved in the discussion.