

Senior Advisory Committee Minutes – April 7, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Chair Vail.

Roll Call

Members present were: Russ Anderson (Council Liaison), Lucky D’Ascanio (Community Programs Director), Jen DeRice, Raymond Jett, Carol Kauffman, Amy Lamontagne (Staff Liaison), and Dolores Vail. Joel Glass was absent because he was taping the Planning Board Meeting. Peggy McGehee arrived at 7:25 pm.

Item 1 – Approve Minutes of March 24 meeting

This item was taken out of order after Item 2. Chair Vail moved to approve the minutes; Peggy McGehee seconded. Motion carried 6-0.

Item 2 – Guest Speakers June O’Neill and Brett Seekins from Cape Elizabeth

Jen DeRice introduced the guest speakers from the Cape Elizabeth Senior Citizens Advisory Commission. June O’Neill and Brett Seekins were present and also invited Ken Capron from Memory Works. Highlights of the discussion include:

- Senior Citizens Advisory Commission was created in January 2014 and started meeting in April 2014. The group had one year to study the needs of community members who are aged 60+. The commission is a sub committee of the Town Council and has seven members (three have to be seniors). The group meets every other Tuesday from 11:00 am – 1:00 pm.
- Brett explained the importance of community meetings for fact gathering. Meetings included AARP, three of the five churches in Cape Elizabeth, all local legislators (commission wanted a connection in Augusta), Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Aging and Development Services (OADS), IRIS Network, Volunteers of America, Living Innovations (Home Health Agency), an Elder Law Attorney, Independent Transport Network (Volunteer Drivers) and Cape Elizabeth Fire and Police Chiefs.
- The commission worked to identify isolated people in the community and provided appropriate outreach to stakeholders (example – churches were very helpful).
- Brett explained the “Village to Village” concept that is used by the Town of Blue Hill. This concept charges a nominal fee for services (ride to appointments, etc.). Cape Elizabeth has not decided if it will use the system but it is a consideration. He also provided background on “Age Friendly Communities” and mentioned that the Town of Kennebunk has formed a group called “No Place Like Home” and hired assistance from the University of New England.

- June explained that the major senior needs in Cape Elizabeth are Information and Communication, Transportation, and Housing. Social Inclusion and participation, as well as an inventory of local health services is also needed.
- Ken Capron spoke about Socialization and the importance of communities providing options for memory care. His organization works with several municipalities and he provided examples of activities in Biddeford.
- Brett discussed three important elements from his commission’s work. The first element is a private solution. He said he can’t go to the Cape Elizabeth Town Council and ask for \$750,000. Is there a business in town or another entity to provide funding? A second element is partnering with another community. Does it make sense to work with a neighboring town to save money and prevent duplication of services? The third element is a direct ask to the town. In Cape Elizabeth, they want a “Navigator” position. This could be a Director of Senior Services or a Senior Ombudsperson – someone who functions as a concierge to answer questions and direct seniors to the most appropriate services.
- The commission is returning to the Cape Elizabeth Town Council on May 12 after first reporting to the Council on November 6, 2014.

Item 3 – Other Issues/Topics

Peggy will draft a charge for the committee to consider at the next meeting. She will create a set of goals and objectives. She is not ready to do it tonight and will do some research in the next three weeks.

Russ agreed that we’re in the initial phase and need to gather data in an organized way. He would like a phased approach from now until September and said the group needs a timetable.

Jen supports the timetable and the prioritization effort.

Amy distributed some 2010 Falmouth Census Data taken from the 2013 Comprehensive Plan. The information was provided by Theo Holtwijk who has done extensive work with senior initiatives. After this update, the group agreed that Theo might be a good guest at a future meeting.

Peggy initiated a discussion about OceanView and their possible involvement with properties at the former school site (where Community Programs has just moved). Peggy wanted to know who has been meeting with OceanView and in what capacity. Russ explained that OceanView is working on a Master Plan for that property and will be bringing it to the Town Council, possibly on April 13. Preliminary meetings have occurred with OceanView, the Town Manager, Town Council Chair and Vice Chair. Peggy wanted to know who owns the buildings and what happened during the purchase and sale in 2011. Lucky explained the division of property with Mason Motz going to the town, and Plummer going to OceanView (with an option for the town to keep it or sell it after a period of time). OceanView retained the Lunt School and part of that building is being used by the Southern Maine Agency on Aging. Lucky mentioned a future partnership between OceanView and the Town related to senior programming space but nothing has been decided. Amy suggested that all interested committee members follow the Council

Agendas online and subscribe to the “News and Notices” feature on the website. Subscribers will receive a notice as soon as the Town Council agenda is posted (Thursday afternoon before the Monday meeting). While discussing OceanView, the group decided that John Wasileski should be a guest at the next meeting. Dolores will contact John and use Carol’s help if needed.

Because of April school vacation, the next meeting will be held three weeks from this meeting date. The next meeting is Tuesday, April 28, at 7:00 pm. **Please note the location change – the Mason Motz Activity Center on Middle Road.**

Item 4 – Adjourn

Chair Vail adjourned the meeting at 8:55 pm.