

Senior Advisory Committee

Minutes – June 2, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 pm by Chair Vail.

Roll Call

Members present were: Lucky D’Ascanio, Jen DeRice, Catherine Hannon, Carol Kauffman, Ray Jett, Amy Lamontagne, Peggy McGehee, and Dolores Vail. Russ Anderson and Joel Glass were absent.

Item 1 – Approve Minutes of May 13 meeting

Jen moved to approve the minutes; Peggy seconded. Motion carried 6-0.

Item 2 – Introduction of New Committee Member

Catherine Hannon has joined the committee. She provided a brief background about her career and experience.

Item 3 – Guest Speaker Larry Gross from the Southern Maine Agency on Aging (SMAA)

Larry spoke to the group for one hour, sharing information and answering questions. Here are some important facts from the conversation –

- A good resource is Peter Morelli with AARP. Previously the Planning and Development Director in Saco, Peter is now working as the consultant for the AARP Maine Age Friendly Community Project. This position involves planning, economic development and public policy.
- About ten years ago, Critical Insights conducted a senior needs survey in Scarborough. It might be helpful to review a copy of the survey.
- Most community centers are intergenerational. It’s important to make communities livable for all ages with sidewalks, infrastructure, etc.
- Often, the best result is for towns to work together and coordinate resources. A few years ago, a CDBG grant was awarded to Westbrook, Gorham and Standish to fund a two-year position. When the grant ended, volunteers were trained to help with services (Medicare workshops, etc).
- Funding continues to decline for the Southern Maine Agency on Aging. The group needs to develop a merchant mentality. Some groups contract with them to provide services. A rough hourly estimate for a contract employee is \$35.00.
- The Village to Village concept is becoming popular and currently exists in Blue Hill. The concept includes creating a network of providers and services and charging a membership fee to use the resources. SMAA can serve as the initial coordinator to get the group started.
- When asked what are the top three things/needs a town can provide for its residents, Larry responded with - 1. Transportation 2. Food shopping (groceries, errands) 3. Home Repairs (Maintenance). These are all items to allow a resident to “age in place.”

Item 4 – Survey at the polls on June 9. Who is staffing the table and what hours?

Amy provided some information about the SAC's plan to conduct surveys on Election Day. She will provide a table and chairs, paper surveys, pens, and a box for the surveys. Dolores created a coverage schedule and Amy will send the information to everyone via e-mail. All slots were filled at the meeting except a two-hour block in the afternoon.

Item 5 – Other Business

There was extensive discussion about a community forum after the survey is done but before the report is finished. The forum would take place in August and could be held at the library. The forum would function like a focus group and encourage feedback from town residents. There will be more discussion about this topic at future meetings.

The meeting schedule was set for the summer. Meeting dates are – June 16, June 30, July 14, July 28, August 11, August 25. Please put these dates on your calendars.

Chair Vail will confirm Tom Gruber for the next meeting on June 16.

Item 6 – Adjourn

Chair Vail adjourned the meeting at 7:40 pm.