

Senior Citizen Advisory Committee Minutes – February 3, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 8:10 am by Chair Vail.

Roll Call

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

Item 1 – Approve Minutes of January 6 meeting

Peggy moved to approve the minutes; Catherine seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Item 2 – Construction Quote Update

Lucky discussed the quote from Doten Construction. She explained that the quote is a guideline and Doten provided it because they did the construction work at Mason Motz. During the Mason Motz bid process in 2014, a new kitchen was one of the bid alternates so Doten already had some experience with the kitchen concept and agreed to do an estimate. Before the committee meeting, Lucky and Amy met with Nathan to discuss the bid timeline. Ideally, the bid package would be released in April with bids due in June. The bids would be awarded by July with construction beginning after that time. Lucky mentioned a conflict with summer camp and thought the construction might have to work around the camp schedule (i.e. construction beginning mid-August instead of late July). The SCAC goal is to have the new senior space ready by the end of October/early November.

Peggy inquired if a public forum was needed before the project goes out to bid. Amy will check with Nathan but did not think that was necessary. There is already \$75,000 in the FY17 budget for design/construction and that amount was based on the SCAC report to the Town Council in November 2015.

The committee discussed design and new furniture for the room. The group brainstormed ideas about fundraising (i.e. including a plaque in the room recognizing donations), and perhaps getting some pro bono design services from a local resident. Jen mentioned a resident who has an interior design business and volunteered to make contact. All members agreed that is important to have a warm and welcoming space for seniors as well as other members of the community.

Item 3 – Committee Recruiting Update

Amy provided a recruiting update that she received from the Deputy Town Clerk. The Appointments Committee needs to interview all interested candidates before the SCAC receives

new members. Currently, there is an interested resident who already serves on a town committee. There was discussion about that resident coming onto the SCAC without needing another interview. The Appointments Committee wants to interview everyone, regardless of any current town involvement. The advertising just ended so hopefully, the group will have new members soon.

Item 4 – Discussion about new position (per SCAC report)

Lucky provided her vision for this position. As the Director of Parks and Community Programs, she wants to take the time to research job descriptions and think about what she needs for the position. Is this position a programmer, a volunteer coordinator, or a senior services coordinator? Will the person do research, grant writing, transportation work and recruit volunteers? Is it a social service position? Should the position be shared with other towns like the Yarmouth/Cumberland position shared by SMAA?

Jen offered to gather job descriptions. Lucky, Amy, and Jen will meet the week of February 22 to discuss options. One committee member asked if the position is funded in the FY17 budget. Amy will check the funding amount.

Item 5 – Guest Speaker – Denise Macaronas from Community Programs

Denise introduced herself and provided a summary of her experience working with seniors. Denise works 15 hours per week and has worked for the Town of Falmouth since 1987. She discussed current programming at Mason Motz. Highlights of her summary included the successful walking program, “Bring and Brag” program, puzzles and games, and other monthly showcase events. She mentioned the Valentine event on February 10 and invited the SCAC committee members. She is enthusiastic about the programming response as well as the new faces she is seeing at Mason Motz. Lucky reiterated the increased interest from people just “stopping by” to check out the facilities.

Peggy asked what the SCAC can do to help Denise and senior programming. Denise is always looking for volunteers and program participants. Perhaps SCAC members can have an active presence when the dedicated space is completed (i.e. staffing events or just being there during unscheduled time).

Item 6 – Committee Updates – Transportation, Senior to Senior, etc.

Joel could not attend the meeting but provided an update to Dolores who reported that the Town of Cumberland is doing something with transportation. Amy offered to do some research.

Item 7 – Other Business

There was a general discussion about Russ’s e-mail about senior property tax relief in the Town of Cumberland. Unfortunately, Russ could not attend the meeting. Amy suggested moving the item to the March agenda so Russ could be there to discuss it. Because the e-mail was received two days before the meeting, Amy did not have a chance to contact the Town of Cumberland to

inquire about their new initiative. Also, Nathan would like to attend the next meeting to discuss this topic with the committee.

Dolores asked the committee if the meetings can be held on the second Wednesday of the month instead of the first Wednesday. The group agreed with this change. Please note the following future meeting dates – March 9, April 13, May 11, and June 8. All meetings are held at the Mason Motz Activity Center at 8:00 am.

Item 8 – Adjourn

Chair Vail adjourned the meeting at 9:21 am.