

Kennebunkport Senior Advisory Committee May 10, 2017

Members Present: Dean Auriemma, Susan Boak, Penny Gruen, Loreta McDonnell, Bill Leffler, and Susan Gesing (Note:

The meeting was called to order at 9:37 AM by Chair, Bill Leffler. The minutes of the April 18 meeting were approved.

There was discussion on the article from Bangor Daily News written by Dr. Allan Teel, recommended to the committee by Selectman Pat Briggs and emailed to committee members by Susan B in March. His focus is on keeping elder Mainers in their homes. Susan recommended that the committee invite him to come to Kennebunkport to speak, possibly sponsored by library. Vote taken and recommendation approved. Susan Boak will work on making that happen, starting with contacting Ann Marie Briggs.

Committee made three decisions:

1. To put off working on a questionnaire until more information is gathered.
2. To focus on hearing as many voices as possible in next three month information-gathering period—scheduling speakers such as Carol Cook (Parks and Rec) and Mary-Lou Boucouvalas (Graves Library) at meetings when possible. Sue Gesing will contact Carol Cook to invite her to the next meeting on May 23.
3. Because prior decision was made to use the *AARP Maine Guide to Building Liveable, Age Friendly Communities* as basis of the committee's work, all would commit to reading it in its entirety by the next meeting.

Penny reported on her conversation with Shirl Weaver, a professor at UNE. Shirl has expertise in designing and conducting focus groups and helped the town of Kennebunk with theirs. Shirl described two types of focus groups: A. the academic or formal with a formal design, filming of the session etc. and B. the down and dirty type – less formal. For both types it is important to use the same moderator and the same recorder in all groups for consistency. For either type it is imperative to know specifically what a group wants to learn before questions are designed. She recommended professional help.

Committee agreed to contact Shirl to come to a future committee meeting. Penny will contact her.

Bill announced that he had an email on FISH from Pat Schwebler. There was agreement to postpone discussion of possibilities for expanding FISH until information gathering phase has been completed.

The next meeting will be on May 23 at 9:30 AM at the Cape Porpoise fire station meeting room. Bill will contact Dean Auriemma to make that arrangement.

Agenda items for next meeting:

1. Remarks from Carol Cook and questions at first part of meeting
2. Initial discussion of the Maine Guide
3. Updates on action items from the May 10 meeting (Susan B and Penny)
4. Resources – collecting resources information on an online site – Penny

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 AM

Respectfully submitted, Susan Gesing, Secretary