

Kennebunkport Senior Advisory Committee May 24, 2017

Members Present: Dean Auriemma, Susan Boak, Penny Gruen, Loreta McDonnell, Bill Leffler, and Susan Gesing (Note: Dennis Thayer has, with regret, resigned from the committee.)

The meeting was called to order at 9:36 AM by Chair, Bill Leffler. The minutes of the May 10 meeting were approved.

Statements:

There are 80+ town residents in the old elderly category. Outreach to this group is important. Judy Barrett may have ideas of people in this age group.

EMS may have staff available during down time (?)

Interviews for focus groups should be scripted.

Survey should be impersonal.

Question asked: As an ad hoc group do we need to do a survey and focus groups. Consensus: we need to gather information and these are ways to do that. We need to determine what resources needed that are not available and fill in the gaps,

Carol Cook made a presentation on what the Parks and Rec. Dept. is doing for older adults. They offer bus trips to concerts, Old Orchard etc. but have not had a big response. Kennebunk offers many programs and Kennebunkport Rec. does not want to compete but have the two departments work to supplement each other. The Department has a fairly new 2015 microbus that holds 15 and could be available for many uses - "free reign". Other than Rec. Dept. staff, an approved volunteer could drive. Vehicle does not have wheel chair lift and there has been no demand for one.

There was discussion on how Rec. Dept. trips are promoted: town tv channel and facebook page but there are difficulties in using that in current department location as school blocks facebook. Loreta mentioned that Kennebunk Moms facebook page might be useful for promotion. Dean suggested that maybe trips are not the thing to focus on.

Carol stated that the best thing the SAR Committee could do would be to act as a clearinghouse for the town as to what is available for older adults. She also mentioned the new disk golf course, which probably would appeal to older adults as well as pickleball, which is sponsored by the rec. departments of both towns.

Carol gave an overview of the proposed 2752 square foot town Parks and Rec. building to be voted on at the town meeting on June 17. There would be a 912

square foot open/event space where programming for older adults could be held. Also there would be a kitchen with many uses including possible cooking classes—cook and take home a meal.

Suggestion was made that the committee's next meeting be devoted to addressing how to specifically use the Maine Guide to create a committee action plan. Penny will line up Shirl Weaver for a specific future meeting.

Bill Leffler cannot be at the next meeting on June 13. Susan Boak, Vice Chair, will preside. Location: Cape Porpoise Fire Station.

The meeting was adjourned around 11:00 AM

Respectfully submitted, Susan Gesing, Secretary, with help from Susan Boak