

**Kennebunkport Senior Advisory Committee –
Revised minutes - June 13, 2017**

Members Present: Dean Auriemma, Susan Boak, Penny Gruen, Loreta McDonnell, and Susan Gesing

Vice Chair, Susan Boak, called the meeting to order at 9:38 AM

Susan B. reported that she is still tracking population trends and obtained a listing of Kennebunkport residents 65 and older (those with a homestead exemption). There are 401 addresses for this group. About half of these represent couples so approximately 650 residents are 65 or older according to this way of measuring. That would be 650 out of 1000 year round residents.

Susan observed that the committee does not yet have visibility and it would be good to have more before we do a survey. There was discussion of a survey and a focus group, Should a survey be restricted to only the 85+ age group? Several members thought that the whole 65+ population should be considered for a survey. Loreta expressed that committee's visibility would actually be raised through conducting a survey. Question was raised as to whether the committee charge, as an advisory committee, actually allows for action steps such as conducting surveys and focus groups or would that be left for a possible future established town committee? Susan B. reviewed the committee's charge and all agreed that a survey was within its scope. Penny suggested that the committee work on a survey before considering focus groups, which would take a great deal of time. Group agreed and a motion was made and passed that SAC move forward on conducting a survey. Shirl Weaver will be invited to a meeting in July to share her expertise on this.

There was discussion on a process for keeping track of information to be used in a final report. Dean suggested that the committee keep an ongoing record to document what has been accomplished in each of the "duties" specified in section IV of the committee's charge from the selectmen. Susan B. said that she thought the existing minutes were comprehensive and sufficient for this purpose. She volunteered to create a Word file for Section IV, attaching communication summaries of meetings as they are created. Dean, Sue G and Penny volunteered to look at section IV of the committee charge and record actions already taken in each area of responsibility and names of members who volunteered to make contacts with departments and organizations.

In moving forward, Dean stated that there was no need to reinvent the wheel and because the Maine Guide provides so much time-tested advice for communities, SAC should go through the book chapter by chapter. He noted that Kennebunkport has already taken the recommended first step in appointing the SAC committee.

Susan B. led the group through the first chapter, noting the emphasis on increasing visibility for the committee and for older adults making contributions to the town. (Sue G suggested that we adopt the term “older adults” rather than “seniors” as our term for referring to the 65 and older population. This is the term Pat Oh uses. All agreed.)

Suggestions for future PR ideas were given and are noted here so they are not forgotten: PR piece for newspapers with committee photo and contact info in early fall, feature articles on older adults contributing on town boards, etc.

Susan B referred to a summary (conversation record) she had made of an impromptu meeting with Judy Barrett who recommended sources (churches and organizations) where the committee might identify older adults and also find out what program/services they might have for older adults. Members agreed that one on one contacts by committee members were useful as long as summaries of the conversations were written and distributed to all members. Committee members split up Susan’s list for contact:

Churches: First five on list – Loreta, First Unitarian - Penny
Masons, Rotary, American Legion, EMS, Fire Dept. and Public Health: Dean
Libraries (Graves and Cape Porpoise—Mary Lou and Mary): Susan B.

Susan Boak volunteered to compile a report of groups (town departments and organizations) that committee members talk with (as partially listed in April 18 minutes and pasted at end of these minutes) with a summary of information obtained. It would also include conversation summaries. This will be useful in preparing recommendations to the selectmen at year-end.

In reviewing the eight domains of livability for older adults (found in the Maine Guide, Sue G. recommended that committee members each take one domain and create a brief report in MS Work of the suggestions most applicable to Kennebunkport. If time permits, the survey in each section could also be completed. All agreed that this would be done and reports shared with everyone on the committee. The following is the list off assignments:

Outdoor Spaces and Buildings – Susan B.
Transportation – Bill L.
Housing - Dean
Social Participation - Loreta
Respect and Social Inclusion – Sue G
Civic Participation and Employment – Sue G
Communication and Information - Penny
Community Support and Health Services - Dean

Susan B. mentioned information that Bill L. received from Pat Oh re: a potential grant from the Maine Community Foundation to help fund the

survey. Deadline for applications is September 15. Decision was made to postpone discussion of this until after Shirl Weaver speaks to the committee—hopefully in late July or August.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:05 AM

Next meeting will be on Tuesday, June 27 at 9:30 AM at KEMs room, Cape Porpoise Fire Station.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Gesing, Secretary

From April 18, 2017 minutes
In reference to the committee charge:

a. Establish a liaison with other agencies and town departments, which have relevant concerns.

This beginning list of agencies and departments is a start:

- Public Health-Town Nurse
- Libraries
- Parks and Rec
- Housing (Werner Gilliam)
- KEMS
- Transportation/Public Works(?)
- Police
- Fire

Also Community organizations:

- Rotary
- Masons
- American Legion
- Habitat for Humanity
- UNE
- Churches:
 - --St Anne's Episcopal (summer)
 - --Church on the Cape
 - --South Congregational
 - --Village Baptist
 - --First Congregational