

Kennebunkport Senior Advisory Committee
Minutes – August 22, 2017
32 North Street meeting room

Members Present: Bill Leffler, Susan Boak, Penny Gruen, Loreta McDonnell, and Susan Gesing. Members unable to attend: Dean Auriemma

Chair, Bill Leffler, called the meeting to order at 9:03 AM

The minutes of the August 8 meeting were approved as circulated.

Old Business

Susan G. reported on her meeting with Pat Schwebler at the Center at Lower Village. There was discussion on the additional information the committee would like from that organization. Susan B will develop a list of standard questions to be used in conversations with organizations serving older adults and Susan G. will get back to Pat Schwebler for additional information.

It was agreed that an important role for the committee is to gather specific information on the services currently provided for Kennebunkport's older adults, including how many volunteers are involved and how many recipients of service there are for each program. This information would be useful in evaluating a program's effectiveness.

Susan B. commented on the invaluable services provided by the town nurse in this community and all spoke positively about Judy Barrett's service in her years as town nurse. Committee members spoke of how unique Kennebunkport is in funding this position and how many people of all ages the town nurse serves.

Penny G. commented that there are many volunteer services being offered to older residents but there does not seem to be any coordination of efforts or an umbrella framework or central place that would help residents know where to turn (other than to the town nurse) for resources and help. All agreed that this is an issue to explore further.

Regarding the status of committee reports on the eight domains of livability in the Maine Guide, all agreed that focus on the survey had put this work on the back burner. As agreed at an earlier meeting, work on these assignments will be done in September.

The survey was mailed yesterday and deadline for their return is September 26. Additional copies of the survey (for spouses and renters) can be obtained at the town offices including the health office and at the two town libraries. Susan B. will deliver copies to the health office and libraries. Committee

decided not to initiate an outreach to locate full time renters other than through an announcement in the next committee press release, which will be done by Penny G and sent out the week of September 11. (The first press release with photo appeared in the York County Coast Star last week.)

New business

Penny suggested that committee members visit the York Senior Center as that community and Kennebunkport have similar demographics. She and Sue Gesing will make that visit in the next several weeks, after Susan B. provides questions for organization interviews. Loreta volunteered to do a visit with Susan B. to a yet-to-be-identified additional senior center in York County.

Then next meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 19, 9 AM at the meeting room at 32 North Street.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:05

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Gesing, Secretary