

Ad Hoc Senior Advisory Committee
11 December 2019
Location: Cape Porpoise Kitchen

Attendance: Susan Boak, Amy Francis, Beverly Soule
Absent: Ken Olsen, George Acker, Bill Leffler

The meeting started with an overview of the town wide survey taken two years ago, its history and its subsequent analysis and report as produced by Susan and presented to the Board of Selectmen.

General Discussion revolved around efforts to learn more about becoming an Age Friendly Community. We reiterated that we need to vote as a Committee to pursue this designation and then work with our Selectmen on applying for it. Our next meeting will be December 18th and will involve tuning in to Patricia Oh's teleconference with several communities. Patricia has agreed to meet with us after the regular meeting via ZOOM.

Our discussion yielded several questions we would like to present to Patricia at this meeting:

Does an Age Friendly Community require an Age Friendly Committee to oversee necessary improvements in programs and physical amenities of the town (such as sidewalks, public meeting places)? If so, what is the form of this committee (size, budget, possible subcommittees)? Would such a committee/board replace our current Senior Advisory Committee? Note: the options for a town committee are limited in size with no sub-committees.

Do we have to be an Age Friendly Community to apply for AARP grants?

Would becoming Age Friendly require Kennebunkport to change its current look and feel (town character)?

How do we go forward addressing the 8 domains listed in the Age Friendly guide (housing, transportation, socialization, respect and social inclusion, civic participation and employment, outdoor spaces, communication and information, and community support and health services. Our thought is to prioritize these issues for Kennebunkport.

How do we get stakeholders involved? How do we engage our officials (Selectmen) to support an age friendly application?

Prior Action items:

SAC-AI-62 Moving toward qualifying Kennebunkport as an AARP certified Age Friendly Community. Beverly has obtained an email introduction to Patricia Oh through her SMAA connections. Susan has the AARP information on becoming an Age Friendly Community. SMAA has offered to help us prepare to become an Age Friendly Community. We would like any help given to be done outside of committee, preferably one-on-one with Beverly as our representative. This last issue is still in discussion.

SAC-AI-64 Susan has contacted Patricia Oh to arrange a telecom meeting immediately following the monthly AARP Age Friendly telecom on December 18th.

Notably, Patricia Oh has applauded our Committee's previous efforts, especially in regard to raising visibility concerns such as nighttime driving and walking safety. She has incorporated our ideas in her own efforts/meetings statewide. In the Kennebunkport survey 27% of people over 65 reported having nighttime vision problems that effected their transportation.

Respectfully Submitted,
Amy Francis