

Ad Hoc Senior Advisory Committee

24 February 2020

Location: Kennebunkport Fire Station, North St

Attendance: Susan Boak, Amy Francis, Beverly Soule, William Leffler and potential new member Steve Turner

Guest: Patricia Oh, Age Friendly Consultant for State of Maine

Absent: Ken Olsen, George Acker

The Committee met with Patricia Oh, head of Age Friendly in Maine, to consult with her on becoming an AARP Age Friendly certified town. This certification would allow Kennebunkport to apply for grant monies to further efforts in the town toward becoming more livable for all residents.

There was a short discussion of some applications from now Age Friendly towns that could serve as a model, or starting point, for Kennebunkport's application. Some of the towns mentioned were Sullivan, North Yarmouth, Whitefield and Elliott. The committee can get some ideas from these while developing a plan that would be focused on Kennebunkport's needs and character.

Patricia pointed out that "Age Friendly" is really friendly for all ages. That the services and infrastructure improvements that seniors want usually improve livability for most ages. The name of the Age Friendly managing committee could reflect this ("All Age Friendly" or "Living Well in Kennebunkport" for example).

The Committee's presentation to our Select Board in preparation for our application to AARP should stress the following:

- There is no cost necessarily in becoming an Age Friendly community
- Age Friendly is not a contract; we can opt out at any time
- An Age Friendly designation is appealing to many visitors
- Becoming a Maine Age Friendly community provides a network of towns with experience and creativity to share
- Kennebunkport has already made investments that qualify as Age Friendly
- Kennebunkport also already provides many services for its seniors

- There are many services in our area (not in town) that enrich the lives of our seniors. These services can and should be included in our application.
- The senior resident survey completed 2 years ago has revealed the primary needs and wishes of our seniors
- In addition to the survey our Ad Hoc committee has already accomplished awareness raising in the areas of night vision issues and the need for multi-generational community building. We have also helped York County Community Action Corporation and Habitat for Humanity coordinate weatherization efforts
- The application is expected to be accepted. We then have 2 years to develop our first Plan for improvement which will be a 3 year plan

The application itself should include a list of the infrastructure improvements Kennebunkport has already made (new sidewalks, Park & Rec facility). It should also include services already available – many of these are listed on the Public Health Department page on the Town's website. We were advised to contact any organization mentioned to let them know that we are using their name in the application.

As a Town Committee we should always be aware that any plan developed to improve livability must be in line with the Town vision. Each town has its own way and pace of moving forward and any Plan submitted by the Committee should be in accord with Kennebunkport's character. The focus of the plan should be one that meets needs and also that we have the capacity to meet.

New Action Items:

**SAC-AI-69** Beverly will put together a list of providers she has used for snow shoveling, handyman work and like services. This would be a start toward the committee developing a list of vetted, reliable, local providers that seniors could hire.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Amy Francis