

Kennebunkport Senior Advisory Committee
Approved Minutes –December 4, 2017
Police Station meeting room – 1:00 PM

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

Members unable to attend: Dean Auriemma and Bill Leffler

Vice Chair, Susan Boak called meeting to order at 8:40 AM. Minutes of the November 21 will be approved at the next meeting on December 12.

Since the last meeting, Susan Boak emailed committee members to report the following from her conversation with Town Manager, Laurie Smith in regards to completing the report by January 2018. Reporting by this date was approved unanimously by the committee on November 14.

There is only one Selectman's meeting in December and both budget and housing reports are scheduled for then.

Laurie recommends we meet with the Selectmen on January 11. In order to meet the one-week deadline, she recommends both the report and presentation material be sent to her by January 3.

In terms of the report she would like to see

- Results of survey
- Existing town assets
- Recommendations for additions

Also, since the past meeting, Susan B, Penny, Loreta and Sue G attended the day-long Tri State Summit on Aging in Portland at the invitation of Laurie Smith. Since that summit, Susan G had circulated some thoughts on what changes had occurred in her thinking after hearing the experiences of attendees at that conference and reviewing materials they had shared.

She stated that she thought that the committee was not yet ready to make a presentation and give recommendations. Penny expressed concerns that the timing for completing a report by the early January deadline was problematic, mentioning her own unavailability during the December holiday season. Others agreed. After further discussion, Susan G. made a motion to ask for an extension in the time period that the committee had been given to complete its work (deadline by January 31, 2018) to the end of February. After discussion, the motion carried, unanimously. A target date for the presentation to Selectman, if the extension is granted, was set at February 22 (second Selectman's meeting of the month).

There was a discussion about the committee's charge and how detailed the recommendation would be in terms of actually recommending new programs and actions.

There was consensus that coordinating and communicating information about existing programs and services would be a priority for the committee's recommendations. There was no vote on this. Specific actions and programs such as supporting a volunteer transportation network or creating a handyman program, many of which have been identified as good ideas for further exploration, are seen as best recommended to an official Senior Advisory Committee of the town, if one is established.

Bill Leffler, at home recuperating from surgery, has been communicating his ideas to the committee via email. One of his strong suggestions was that the town should hire a part time social worker to coordinate and promote programs for older adults. Committee members wanted to respond to Bill's suggestion and discussed it. The consensus was that this would be a premature recommendation and in the category of programs for exploration by a full time town committee. Penny made a motion that the committee does not recommend the hiring of a part time social worker at this time. The motion was carried unanimously.

To capture the consensus of committee members on the subject of the formation of an official town Senior Advisory Committee, Loreta made a motion that this ad hoc committee would, in its report and recommendations, recommend the formation of an official committee. The motion passed unanimously.

In addressing the subject of the tasks required to complete the report and recommendations, Penny agreed to create a template/outline for a report and circulate to committee members by Monday December 11. Committee members will then share the work of filling in the various parts of the report, based on information already compiled. Another task will be to finalize and determine the best use of the shorter PowerPoint slide presentation.

The next two meetings will be Monday, December 11, 1 PM, a meeting with Laurie Smith at her office and a committee meeting the following morning, Tuesday, December 12, 9 AM, at the North Street fire station meeting room.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:40 AM

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Gasing, Secretary