

Minutes of the Bar Harbor Aging Committee

Feb. 25, 2019

Present: Ron Greenberg, Doreen Willett, Jan Varnum, Martha Searchfield, and Bonnie Lundquist. Absent: Judie Noonan (on telephone for voting of officers)

Doreen Willett, Chair, called the meeting to order. Voting for officers was the first agenda item. A long discussion ensued regarding the expectations of officers. We agreed that one person should represent us at meetings of other organizations.

Doreen Willett was nominated as chair, Ron Greenberg as vice chair, and Jan Varnum as secretary. All were unanimously elected.

We discussed an action plan and the need to present the results of our focus groups to the Town Council. We agreed that our three areas of focus would be housing, transportation, and public spaces/socialization.

Ron Greenberg discussed an idea regarding housing, and said that the town could change its regulations. Hotel owners are eager to build housing for their employees and perhaps, in exchange for that right, they might be convinced to build housing for seniors. We discussed this idea at length. Ron agreed to go to a workshop meeting on Tues. night and make a suggestion on behalf of the Committee, that being that when discussing housing, senior housing should be part of the plan. We supported that position.

Bonnie suggested that we need sub-committees or work groups to begin working together. The consensus was to get others involved, especially key players in the community and those who attended the focus groups, and hopefully repopulate our committee.

Ron had shared an idea regarding researching and bringing some ideas in to the next meeting. These ideas would be things we could implement by the end of the year. Ron volunteered to work on housing; Doreen volunteered to work on transportation; and a volunteer is needed for public spaces/socialization.

Jan shared information about an AARP Community Challenge Grant 2019; she offered to help work on it. The deadline is Apr. 17. Doreen will be gaining information through a conference call and will email committee members.

The meeting adjourned at 4:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Jan Varnum
Secretary