

Minutes of the Bar Harbor Aging Committee

Apr. 17, 2019

Present: Ron Greenberg, Doreen Willett, Jan Varnum, Martha Searchfield, Allie Bodge. Absent: Judie Noonan. Guest: Lee Bonta. (Note: Bonnie Lundquist has withdrawn from the Committee as she is moving.)

Doreen Willett, Chair, called the meeting to order. The minutes from the Mar. 27th meeting were approved. Doreen explained that Stan helped her with the Financial Report; she will be submitting expenses from a workshop that she will be attending.

Doreen then reported on the transportation piece of our work. She would like to have the hub idea (designated stops for pick ups) become her focus, instead of prescription delivery. There was discussion about some transportation that already exists, such as Downeast Transportation trips to Ellsworth to Walmart. This goes three times a week and has several in-town stops. Out of town stops might be needed for this and other destinations. Doreen will speak with Tom Crikalier and Paul Murphy, who are involved in planning for this and for the Island Explorer.

Ron reported on housing. A few years back, Ellsworth did a study which our new town planner worked on; the results were 400 pages of information. Bar Harbor is planning on a similar study, detailed and in depth, covering the whole picture. Cornell Knight, Town Manager, suggested that our committee might look at what senior housing should be, what it could look like, etc. We might invite providers to present to us and find out what to investigate. There was discussion.

Jan shared a presentation that the Ellsworth Town Manager gave to a group she attends. Much has happened as a result of their study. She suggested that he might be a good resource. Allie explained that there is a \$36,000 income guideline for the housing authority, so that leaves many "middle income" people ineligible. We need someone with expertise on TIFF (guidelines relating to rental subsidies). Ron suggested that we have five-six experts come to meet with us.

Ron divided the task so that each member has a part:

Doreen- transportation hub

Jan- social related to transportation

Judie- role of the Council and money questions

Martha- person to invite guests

Ron- write-up for Council

Allie- how to figure out number of people housing study may help

Jan had no report, as she was out of town when the Hospice was convening their sessions. She hopes to have more information at the next meeting.

Action Items: reports on what we are doing.

Lee Bonta, our guest and alternate member, was invited to share his thoughts.

Ron will send the link to the Ellsworth Housing Authority so that we can review their report.

He also shared a request from Camp Beech Cliff. They are looking for ideas on what they can do for programming for older adults. He asked members to email ideas to him within a week so he can respond to them.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:05 PM.

The next meeting will be Wed., May 15, at 3:00 upstairs in the Municipal Building.

Respectfully submitted,
Jan Varnum
Secretary