

Minutes of Bar Harbor Task Force on Aging

Oct. 16, 2018

Municipal Bldg.

Present: Ron Greenberg, Bonnie Lundquist, Doreen Willett, Jan Varnum, Martha Searchfield, Judie Noonan. Absent: Barbara MacPike

The meeting was called to order by Chair Doreen Willett. We agreed to discuss the focus groups by going in order of individual assignments from our last meeting.

Doreen presented an introductory process, which members skimmed and discussed. She stated that we would need volunteers to help us facilitate the meetings. We eliminated the income question on the participant profile. All agreed that there should be specific prompts to encourage discussion.

Martha suggested the library and YWCA for public locations. She led a discussion on the timing of these meetings. Do we do each focus group by topic? Do we invite people for all of them or open some up? We need to make sure there is enough time for each topic.

Bonnie discussed design, suggesting that we do one topic or each focus group OR all three of the topics that arose from our survey (housing, transportation, and community support and health services). She wondered if we should have an initial trial focus group.

The goal of our task force is to lead to results that we can recommend to the Council. We need to get at the **why** and gain some new ideas. We'll also need to partner with other organizations.

Jan talked about recruiting and publicity. She had developed a list of kinds of people we might consider asking to participate by considering different occupations and socio-economics of Bar Harbor. (She will duplicate this list for members.) Martha suggested that we each particularly invite ten people, distributing them with people we know from the list. Each person could decide how to invite (phone, email, mail, etc.).

The Islander should be used for publicity, with an article and an ad, and the community calendar. The monthly newsletter of MDI Housing could be used.

Ron talked about logistics. He suggested having focus groups at Birch Bay, Sonogee and MDI Housing. We need to decide who will run each session. The time should be varied. He shared some handouts of ideas he had developed.

Martha suggested that we do a practice focus group with an invited group between Thanksgiving and Christmas. (Doreen said it could possibly be part of "Age by Design" at the library.) Martha will contact the YWCA first to see if we might hold the first meeting on Dec. 1st. An alternative site could be the Congregational Church.

We will consider January 2019 for the other three focus groups, after we evaluate the first session.

Doreen reminded us that we are supporting AARP for their "Health Care Conversation" in the Municipal Auditorium on Oct. 24, from 5-7 PM. Someone from pharmaceutical, care management and a third area will speak. AARP is donating \$1000 to our group in appreciation. It was suggested that roll-up carpets be rented to help the noise factor in the auditorium.

Doreen asked about the logo she had shared at the last meeting. Bonnie asked about seeing what other communities have used. Check the website for age-friendly communities to see some of them. Doreen will begin to work on a Facebook page, there being no objection.

The next meeting will be Tues., Oct. 23, from 3:30-5:30 in the conference room at the Municipal Bldg.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Jan Varnum, Secretary