

**Town of Kennebunk
Committee on Aging
Notes from meeting on 8/11/16: No quorum**

Thursday, August 11, 2016

Present: Christina Bronzetti, Donna Curtis-Binette, Bevan Davies, Ted Trainer, Alice White

Absent: Marti Hess-Pomber, Susan LeBlanc Malley, Judith Metcalf, Susan Petit, Sassy Smallman, Barbara Yates

Also in attendance: Blake Baldwin, Selectman Liaison, Judy Bernstein, Town Planner, Sgt. Darrell Eaton, Kennebunk Police Department, Alaina LeBlanc Tridente, Chamber of Commerce, Karen Winton, General Assistance

Due to a lack of quorum the committee did not hold a regular meeting. Members that were in attendance chose to discuss general topics, however no motions were made. The minutes from July 14, 2016 were not voted on; these minutes will be reviewed at the September 8, 2016 meeting.

The committee recognized it is already starting work (creating resource lists, discussing the future direction of the committee); however it has not yet completed several important initial steps (i.e. electing officers, accepting by-laws, etc.). With that in mind members discussed a potential mission statement.

There was discussion about whether to include a specific age in the mission statement. The conversation included what age constitutes a “senior” and whether including an age in the mission statement was even necessary. Bronzetti mentioned that some older residents may feel as if they don’t “qualify” to be served by the committee if an age is not specified. Other members offered that a mission statement is just that, a mission, a defined purpose, and most people looking at the committee’s webpage or literature will not read the mission statement to determine if they could attend meetings or join efforts. Still others offered that the committee is actually hoping to attract many ages to participate with them, while still serving as a resource and advocate for seniors. Gathering certain key words and using the Town of Bowdoinham’s mission as a model, the following mission statement was offered for consideration:

The Resource Committee on Aging’s mission is to provide resources and advocacy that enable older residents of Kennebunk to remain active, engaged participants in their community as well as to provide opportunities to enrich the lives of all residents.

The committee discussed using their page on the website to link to resources as well as to promote future opportunities. Baldwin noted there could be a hearty FAQ section which could answer the question, “Do I qualify...?” as well as other questions that would promote involvement intergenerationally and otherwise.

Next, the committee discussed goals for the next meeting. Davies suggested members think about what information they want to have on the committee’s page on the town’s website. Already a FAQ section was mentioned, but also considered was posting the Resource List (as drafted to date). Conversation

included the possibility of creating a sub-committee that would focus solely on the Resource List, its continued creation and then regular updating. Baldwin offered several other categories that could be added to the list including legal issues such as POA, trusts, estate planning. Trainer noted the caregiving resources including respite for caregivers. Tridente noted that members could create a Google alert in an effort to stay up to date with resources and news of senior issues.

Meeting frequency was also discussed, the possibility of meeting two times per month beginning in the fall, as well as the ability of a sub-committee to meet more frequently without posting notice of meeting. Tridente suggested creating the Resource List as a Google doc so multiple members could edit it in an ongoing fashion.

The committee disbanded at 5:15 p.m.

The Resource Committee on Aging is a non-binding committee and meeting minutes do not need to be accepted by the committee. The Secretary will prepare a summary of each meeting and submit it to the Town Clerk for records in-house and for posting to the town's website. Staff can provide paper copies upon request for members' own information and records.