

Senior Citizens Advisory Commission

Meeting Minutes 4/10/2014, Jordan Conference Room

Attendees: Jessica Sullivan, Town Council Chair, Elizabeth Baillie, Patricia Bredenberg, Bruce Nelson, June O'Neill, Barbara Page, Brett Seekins. Absent William Marshall. Matthew Sturgis, Staff to Commission.

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 am by Town Council Chair, Jessica Sullivan.

1. **Introductions:** The chair opened the meeting, introduced herself, thanked the Commission members for volunteering, and shared with the Commission the Council's reasoning behind the creation of this Commission.

After the Council Chair's introduction, each member of the Commission introduced themselves, their backgrounds, and what their interest is in volunteering for this Commission.

2. **Election of Chair:** After a brief discussion the selection of a Chair was made. Elizabeth Baillie nominated Brett Seekins, Second by June O'Neill. The motion passed unanimously.
3. **Right to Know, Town Council Communication Strategy, Public Participation Plan:** Chairman Sullivan explained the concept of the Open Meetings law, the public's right to know, and explained that this applied to emails and other forms of correspondence. She stressed the importance of having Commission business taking place in public, being properly noticed, and that no more than two members of a committee may be together at one time if Commission business is discussed.
4. **Review of Committee Charge:** Chair Sullivan reviewed the Commission's charge. In her review she explained that the Commission is an ad-hoc committee, with the original intent being that after one year the Commission work will be complete and the Commission will be done. However, she did explain that part of the charge states that the Commission shall make a recommendation regarding their status at the end of their report, and may recommend the Commission become a standing Town committee. She also reinforced that the Council is looking forward to the Commission's identifying of issues and the recommendations on how to work on them.
5. **Meeting Schedule:** The Commission members discussed the timing and frequency of meetings. After a brief discussion it was decided that the Commission shall meet at 11 am on the second and fourth Tuesday each month. The meetings shall take place at Town Hall, but the Commission may need to go to other locations to hold their meeting where it may be helpful in receiving presentations and/or investigating related senior issues.

6. **Other Discussion:** There was a fruitful discussion about possible upcoming topics for meetings. The discussion included observations on the idea of Senior Citizen Advisory Commissions being a growing concept. Such towns as Camden, Belfast, and others in the mid coast of Maine have been working on providing services to seniors.

There was also discussion on the scarcity of resources for seniors in the area and Maine, and what is available is limited. This was juxtaposed to Florida, where there is significant community programming for seniors that is affordable, easily accessed, and diverse.

The Commission members discussed that as their work moves forward a tiered approach may be wise, as there are two identified areas of concern, those being health related issues and activity related issues. There is a significant population in Cape Elizabeth that lives independently and need occasional services that are easy to find, but they do not exist as funding is non-existent. The Cape Elizabeth school program of Senior to Senior was discussed as a successful program helping senior citizens while high school seniors fulfill their community service requirement. This program is viewed as very successful and the Commission shall pursue having Tom Kohan from the High School in with some program participants to provide more information at a future meeting.

7. **Next Meeting:** The next meeting will be held on April 15, 2014 at 11 am in the Jordan Conference Room. The next meeting after April 15 will be April 29th at 11 am, with the location to be determined.

Possible items for discussion will be the demographics of Cape Elizabeth from census data, such as population break down in the senior demographic, incomes, and other census related information. For the next meeting the members will assemble their top issues they feel are facing seniors and share with the Commission and also discuss what programs are currently available. Potential future invited guests will be a speaker from Southern Maine Area Agency on Aging, Officer David Galvan from CEPD.

The meeting adjourned at 10:55 am.