

Senior Citizens Advisory Commission

Meeting Minutes: September 2, 2014

Jordan Conference Room, 11:00 am

Attendees: Chair Brett Seekins, William Marshall, Bruce Nelson, June O'Neill, Elizabeth Baillie. Excused: Patricia Bredenberg, Barbara Page

Visitor: None

Staff: Matthew Sturgis

1. Chair Seekins called the meeting to order at 11:05 am.
2. The minutes of the prior meeting will be available for approval at the next meeting.
3. Chair Seekins related that Wendy Keeler of the Cape Courier may write an article to help publicize the public input forum.
 - a. Chair Seekins asked if the Commission would like to expand the public input session to both meetings in October instead of doing just one Saturday meeting or on only September 30?
 - b. Elizabeth Baillie liked that idea and thinks it gives people more of an opportunity to come and provide input.
 - c. Bruce Nelson asked if we would mail out notices?
 - d. Chair Seekins thought more of a verbal campaign, like reaching out through neighborhood associations, churches, and an advertisement in the Courier.
 - e. June O'Neill likes the idea and the job would be to get the word out with outreach between now and then.
 - f. Elizabeth Baillie will be meeting with St. Bartholomew and St. Max's, who will share the results of their senior survey with her, and the data specific to Cape Elizabeth. She also spoke at the Parents association, who thought the senior issue was a good topic, but their work needs to be school related. However, we could invite them to one of the public forums planned. This may be a good opportunity to get involved with the Senior to Senior program, with them helping at the forum, expo, and outreach. Also, Meals on Wheels, Rotary, and the Lions Club may be good outreach vehicles.
 - g. Bruce Nelson thinks an ad as well as an article would be a good idea. Chair Seekins also thought an insert could be good. William Marshall believes the Forecaster is the most read, and we should look into advertising with them as well. The Courier is the only one directly mailed in Cape Elizabeth, but the Forecaster has great distribution.
 - h. Chair Seekins stated that the dates of the open forum sessions would be 9/30, 10/14, and 10/28.

- i. Elizabeth Baillie felt it was important to keep the topic open and generated interest to come.
 - j. William Marshall feels the Commission needs to have a compelling topic, as he noticed there is a concentrated group who come to everything, but are not necessarily a true representation of the concerns out there. The forums need to attract a population.
 - k. Chair Seekins sees this as an opportunity to say what has happened so far, what information was received, and why the Commission is doing their work.
 - l. William Marshall stated that getting people to come out is the big challenge.
 - m. June O'Neill stated a good way to get the word out would be to go to different groups like the Rotary, present to them, and hand out info advertising the forums.
 - n. Elizabeth Baillie may contact the PTA and ask to use their email distribution list to publicize the meetings. Also the Senior to Senior group could be helpful in publicizing the event.
4. The Commission next discussed the topic of the Health Expo, as Elizabeth Baillie asked if the Commission was still thinking of doing it.
- a. June O'Neill stated that she was going to meet with the organizers tomorrow (9/3).
 - b. After a brief discussion the consensus of the Commission was to do the expo.
 - c. **Bruce Nelson made the motion to officially take a table at the Cape Senior Health Expo. June O'Neill seconded. Unanimous in favor.**
 - d. Bruce Nelson noted that at the expo the Commission members can ask what do seniors want for programs, needs, etc. The seniors can be asked what their issues may be. This could be done by a questionnaire or survey. What are the issues, transportation? Financial burdens? Etc.
 - e. Chair Seekins thought maybe asking their concerns by multiple choice: have a 12 item list, rank them by importance.
 - f. Elizabeth Baillie asked if the seniors would do the survey at the Expo or take it with them?
 - g. Bruce Nelson said yes, they could take a couple of minutes and do it there.
 - h. Chair Seekins thought using a blue sheet for men and a pink sheet for women would be good.
 - i. Elizabeth Baillie thought perhaps the Senior to Senior students could help by taking around the survey.
 - j. June O'Neill thought it would be a great opportunity for students to fulfill their volunteer requirement.
 - k. Chair Seekins would like to keep the survey to six questions.
 - l. Elizabeth Baillie thought that would be good and we could see themes show up in the results.

5. Some of the questions for the survey were discussed.
 - a. Age of respondent. Under 60 or over 60. May get different responses from younger vs. older people. Important that respondents understand the use of the survey is to find out needs.
 - b. Is the respondent a care giver, professionally or in family?
 - c. The Commission needs to state who it is, why it is doing this work, what work is being done.
 - d. Other questions could be: What is the #1 concern you have? What is the #1 problem you see concerning seniors? Hunger, Isolation, Transportation, Financial, Access to Health Care, Other?
 - e. Bruce Nelson thought it would be good to have a section at the end for written comments if the respondent would like.
 - f. What community services would you like? What services are you using?
 - g. What programs are absent that you would like to have? If they were available in the community.
 - h. Do you find it convenient to live here? Is it based on access to health care? Shopping? Low tax base? Etc.
 - i. Do you feel isolated?
 - j. Are there other concerns you would like to see the Commission look into? Box at the bottom of the survey could be used to respond.
 - k. What services do you like about living in Cape Elizabeth?
 - l. There was consensus to keep the survey to have check boxes or a ranking system, with an open box at the end to provide additional written input.
 - m. William Marshall asked how will the information be used to help produce the report from this Commission?
 - n. Chair Seekins said he thinks this survey may confirm much of where we are going with the report.
 - o. William Marshall asked if this will help us to get the report done by the due date?
 - p. Chair Seekins stated that the Commission has additional time if needed to get the summary of activity done by year's end. Can report to the Town Council if needed.
 - q. Elizabeth Baillie will reach out to Tom Kohan to see if we can have some students assist at the Expo to help with the survey.
 - r. There was additional discussion on how to publicize the open forums, with no decision made.
 - s. Chair Seekins will send out a rough draft of questions for people to consider. He encouraged people to edit and make suggestions as they are very welcome.

6. The meeting adjourned at 1 pm.