

Senior Citizens Advisory Commission

Meeting Minutes: October 14, 2014

Jordan Conference Room

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

Visitor: Beverly Blair, Resident of 12 Linwood Street, Jackie & Robbie Robinson 17 Trundy Rd.

Staff: Janet Moran, Maureen O'Meara

The meeting was called to order at 11:00 am.

The minutes of the prior meeting were approved, no changes were made. Motion to accept minutes by Barbara Page, Second by William Marshall, motion approved 6-0. Patricia Bredenberg arrived after the minutes were approved.

1. Chair Seekins welcomed visitor Beverly Blair who introduced herself and stated she is a long time resident of Cape Elizabeth and resides on 12 Linwood St.

- a. Chair Seekins explained the commission and asked Beverly how she heard of the commission, she replied she saw an article in the Cape Courier.
- b. Chair Seekins asked her about her concerns and questions, she replied she had concerns with the cost of living and how it has increased, she is on a limited income and wanted to inquire if the town offers any reductions in taxes for seniors, such as other towns (Scarborough.)
She also said it is harder and harder to do repairs on her house with limited means.
- c. June O'Neil spoke about Energy Maine and Efficiency Maine and suggested she looks into this.
- d. Chair Seekins asked if transportation was a problem, she replied no not for her because she still drives a car. He did mention to her that Jen DeRice is looking into large vehicle to take seniors out to do errands and appointments.
- e. Bruce Nelson asked her how she deals with trash removal, Beverly responded she is still able to take her own out and enjoys the Swap Shop.
- f. Chair Seekins asked her thoughts on the library. Beverly responded she likes the Library new plans, and suggests a tour of the facility would be helpful to her as well as others.
- g. Chair Seekins asked her thoughts on Town Center; she responded she would like to see more in Town Center and welcomes the idea. Feels town center is currently not inviting.
- h. Elizabeth Baillie mentioned the opening of C-Salt, and how she has been inside and finds it a nice addition to the Town Center.

- i. Bruce Nelson spoke about the history between South Portland and Cape Elizabeth and when Cape Elizabeth broke off from South Portland. The commission members all agreed Cape Elizabeth not user friendly for Businesses.
 - j. Chair Seekins asked Beverly's thoughts on Housing. She replied she had no future thoughts on it right now.
 - k. Bruce Nelson mentioned some towns have subsidized senior housing, he said South Portland, Millcreek has senior living apartments.
 - l. June O'Neil asked whether Cape Elizabeth should have their own Senior Center Beverly responded yes, she would like that and take part in it. Beverly replied she is a member of Ocean Life Long Learning Institute in South Portland, and they offer free classes to people over 50. She mentioned there isn't anything here in town like that.
 - m. June O'Neil and Chair Seekins mentioned Community Services, she replied she has found no free classes. Land Trust charges for programs, would like to see free activities to meet other seniors.
 - n. Barbara Page mentioned there is a form you can fill out at Community Services for reduced pricing on their classes. Barbara mentioned they offer 20% discount for seniors.
 - o. June O'Neil also talked about the community feel of Peaks Island, how everyone knows each other and how here in Cape Elizabeth we are segregated.
 - p. Elizabeth Baillie mentioned if you have a child in the school system then you are in the clique.
 - q. Barbara Page mentioned information should be readily available for all to see.
 - r. Chair Seekins mentioned Wendy Keeler and suggests maybe a section can be dedicated to run advertisements and articles of what's happening in Town and what is offered?
Chair Seekins mentioned people living in isolation, concerns, and how to reach these seniors to let them know what services are available to them.
 - s. Elizabeth Baillie suggested a neighborhood watch and to provide a number to call for help.
 - t. June O'Neil agreed upon window shade opening idea, noninvasive way to check on others.
 - u. All members agreed a hotline to check on each other would be a nice idea.
 - v. Chair Seekins mentioned Triad and David Galvin, a safety and security system for seniors.
 - w. Beverly Blair did mention she used to volunteer for Meals on Wheels.
 - x. Chair Seekins mentioned Churches and Health Fairs, talked a little about caregivers not getting a break.
 - y. Beverly Blair did leave at noon and left her phone number for us to provide more information regarding Triad. Chair Seekins and members thanked her for coming to the meeting and all of her input.
2. Chairman Seekins started discussion of report to Town Council.
- a. Bill Marshall asked about date report due to Town Council.
 - b. Chair Seekins replied March 2015, and he has requested to get on the agenda but hasn't heard back yet. He will refer to Matt Sturgis.

3. Chairman Seekins asked for any issues to discuss ongoing and new.
 - a. Pat Bradenberg asked about transportation and when the bus service ended.
 - b. Barbara Page believes it's been gone for 6+ years, ended due to lack of participation and affordability.
 - c. Pat Bradenberg mentioned Maryland has bus service for Senior Citizens.
 - d. Chair Seekins welcomes 2 new visitors that stopped in around noon, they introduce themselves as Jackie & Robbie Robinson and reside on Trundy Rd in town.
 - e. Jackie talks about transportation, She is the only driver in the house, she is 86 and her husband is 90, she responds she would be up the creek without transportation for food shopping, doctor's appointments and pool 3x a week.
 - f. Elizabeth Baillie asked Jackie about her neighbors if any were elderly.
 - g. Jackie replied she has a neighbor Marjorie Fowler who is in her late 80's joined ITN, she also has a caregiver who takes her out to do errands. She also mentioned Living Innovations Co.
 - h. June O'Neil asked Jackie if she wanted transportation here in Town.
 - i. Chair Seekins asked what you would like to see here in Town Center.
 - j. Jackie replies she reads at home, doesn't see a use for senior center for her.
 - k. Elizabeth Baillie asked Jackie about a network to socialize with others.
 - l. Jackie responded yes has neighbors and friends in town, 40-50 annual party in December. Jackie said tomorrow dinner @ Lion's Schoolhouse to introduce new neighbors, some folks never come, most show up lots of new families with little kids.
 - m. Jackie taught neighbors to water ski, various ages, likes her neighbors.
 - n. Chair Seekins suggest use of neighborhood watch, Triad, guidance.
 - o. Jackie responded no one calls them daily, but others in neighborhood do check on them.
 - p. Chair Seekins asked her opinion of Triad as a safety net for those who maybe isolated.
 - q. Jackie answered nice idea.
 - r. Barbara Page asked if she watched the televised Town Council meetings
 - s. Jackie responded often go to the meeting if there is an issue you're interested in, or read Cape Courier. She reads SMCA newsletter cover to cover but no information in it about Cape Elizabeth.
 - t. Barbara Page asked Jackie if she would like to see bus service again, maybe Tuesday and Thursday to the Maine Mall.
 - u. Jackie replied that would be perfect, to Millcreek, not a big bus, like what Piper Shores and Village Crossings uses.
 - v. Bill Marshall said start up communities like Piper Shores have own transportation, people move into those so less community demand.
 - w. Pat Bradenberg stated competition with schools contributed to discontinuation of service.
 - x. Bill Marshall states we need more interaction between groups.

Bill said Uber now operating in Cape Elizabeth on demand but expensive. CE Town Center to Maine Mall \$20.00, instant, will pick-up in 10 minutes, takes plastic.

- y. Bruce Nelson asked why is Uber more expensive, thought less expensive.
 - z. Bill Marshall responds taxi to airport to home \$20.00 Uber very reliable, instant. The cost is the same as taxi for long trips.
4. Chairman Seekins addresses Health Fair questions and concerns.
- a. June O'Neil is encouraged Health Fair is at High School, suggests a sign and will call Jen Desena on this. Jen Desena confirmed 30 vendors to attend Health Fair.
Elizabeth Baillie suggest mention Health Fair on the town website.
Bill Marshall agrees this is imperative due to lag time on Cape Courier.
Other items mentioned, giveaway tiny bottle of water, and maybe wrapped candy, peppermint patties, each member contribute a bag of candy to put into a candy bowl. June will call Jen on this. Everyone agreed to bring a bag of candy and town staff will provide a bowl at the table at fair. June to set up also for Cape Memory Care. Maybe we can setup the night before, need some signage with the survey and clipboards, use foam board & print up a sign.
 - b. June will pick up easel from town hall Thursday afternoon, call Matt day before the fair.
 - c. Students from high school to help with survey, Tom Cohan to help coordinate that.
 - d. Fair coverage: Elizabeth and Bruce to cover 900 am, Barbara & Bill to cover 10:00 am, June & Pat to cover 11:00 am.
5. Chairman Seekins announced no meeting before the fair and next meeting October 28, 2014. On the 28th need a speaker, possibly speaker from SMAA. This will be Elizabeth Baillie last listening session.
6. The meeting adjourned at 1:00 pm.