

AGING IN PLACE COMMITTEE

MINUTES 6-18-2020 (virtual meeting)

Mission: The AIP mission is to:

Provide advocacy for changes in Eliot's physical, economic, and social environment that enables Eliot residents, especially older residents, to live in their homes for as long as possible, and foster the creation of services and programs geared to keeping all residents active and engaged in the community.

Present: Ellen Ceppetelli, Ron Ceppetelli, Gail Licciardello, Francis Thomas, Nedra Sahr, Melissa Albert

Absent: Liz Castillo

Guests: Amanda Ouelette, Coordinator for Meals on Wheels in Eliot and Kittery (present for a portion of the meeting)

Meeting called to order at: 4:02pm

Ellen asked that Fran, who agreed, to be a voting member.

Additional agenda item of discussing the upcoming (June 25th) town hearing was requested. It will be added to the end of the meeting.

Review of Minutes: The following corrections to the minutes were suggested:

Pg 2: 3rd paragraph should read. *She has not listened to the second one. The discussion involved what other communities are doing to assist with pandemic crisis. Ellen clarified that this AARP group is not the New England Grassroots Fund that awarded AIP \$1000 to respond to the COVID outbreak. None of those funds have been used to date. The 4th paragraph, starting on the 3rd line should read; Ellen reported that she spoke with Karen Brown, director of Foot Prints Food Pantry in April and was told then they do not need New England Grassroots funds.*

Under Senior Tax Assistance Ordinance section, the following should be added: *Nedra and Ron will meet to develop a plan.*

Pg 3. Under Review of Action Plan for AIP and what we have done: Add to the 3rd bullet: *via the AARP grant application for benches at the Boat Basin. And add to the 4th bullet: They may be interested in creating a transportation service.*

Motion: Ron moved that we approve the changes in the minutes. Nedra seconded it. Ellen, Ron, Gail, Nedra, Fran all voted in favor, none opposed.

Update: Ellen reported she called Karen Brown of Foot Prints Food Panty for an update. She indicated that the communities of Eliot and Kittery have stepped up to continue to support what the current needs are. Ellen will check in monthly with her.

Ellen participated in and Age Friendly Call, where it was relayed there are funds available to build trails and walkways. Some of the funds are for both handicapped accessible trails and regular trails.

New England Grass Roots Grant.

Fran indicated she discovered on Eliot Strong that one Eliot family had asked for assistance. The family had some basic needs for the delivery of wipes, tissue, etc. Questioned if this was something we could help with. Fran indicated the post had subsequently been taken down. It was noted that Michelle Meyer monitors Eliot Strong and would be responsible for removing posts if indicated.

Melissa indicated that the Select Board indicated that AIP can accept the grant money from New England Grass Roots. It was noted we need to develop a process for distributing this money.

- If a person was approved to receive some of the grant money someone could pay the vendor directly and be reimbursed from the grant money
- an invoice could be sent to Melissa or Jordan with instructions to pay it from the grant money
- Melissa could use the town credit card for the item and then be reimbursed from the grant money

It was decided that Ellen would be the contact person for anyone making a request for some assistance. It was questioned: how do we verify that the person requesting assistance has a need?

Motion: Nedra Moved, with Gail seconding, that Ellen be designated as point person to make the decision to award the funds for less than \$100 for financial assistance in situations that meets the criteria for the Grass Roots Grant. Ellen, Ron, Gail Nedra and Fran all voted in favor. None opposed.

Amanda Ouellette, relayed that she was aware of someone in town who had a request as she had not had hot water in her home for over a year. Ron indicated that he called and asked to have the situation described to him. It was determined that the hot water heater was broken. He contacted P Gagnon & Sons who indicated that if the problem could be fixed for under \$200, then the company would fix it for free. It was suggested that if the repair was over \$200, the committee could ask P Gagnon to cover the first \$200 and then perhaps we could use the Grass Roots funds to cover the rest of the fee. It was questioned if we could use the Grass Roots Funds if the issue were not related to the COVID pandemic. Amanda did not feel this person's need was related to the pandemic. It was noted that Michelle Meyer also is aware of this situation. Amanda was thanked for bringing this situation to the committee's attention. Amanda indicated there are approximately 20 Eliot residents who receive meals on wheels, and about 100 households in Kittery, Eliot, York, and S. Berwick who are receiving meals.

Ellen requested that Fran contact Michelle Meyer about this person who needed help, to determine if help is still needed. Ron indicated that he has been aware of several situations with different issues and most were resolved by neighbors helping neighbors. It was noted that Eliot Strong could be a good asset to this committee.

Ellen informed Amanda that, if she were interested, we have a vacancy on the committee.

Communication and Information:

Nedra indicated that she has sent out 2 posts to Eliot on-Line, Eliot Strong and The Greenbriar Homeowners Association, and is tracking who posts comments. She and Ron have produced a video on describing the role of the communications committee.

Nedra will continue with posts next week, including information on outdoor spaces and after that, one on transportation. Ellen suggested we send these posts to all those on our volunteer list. Also, it was suggested that we post these on the town web site. Nedra will send Melissa the copy of the posts that she or Wendy can post on the town web site.

LOGO: Fran indicated she contacted Vicki at the high school about students producing the logo but things have been delayed due to the pandemic. Perhaps if we gave the school a deadline for the design of the logo with the \$100 prize be dependent upon producing the logo by that deadline. Fran will contact Vicki

Potential Web Site: Ron has been in contact with Jamie Carver, who would be willing to do a web site for free for us as long as we provided all the web site written data.

Nedra asked Dana if we could have a meeting with volunteers via zoom who seemed to indicate that it would have to be an official meeting of the committee. Melissa will check on this with MMA Legal counsel.

June 25th Public Hearing: Gail indicated she felt it important that someone from the committee be there to promote the ordinance and respond to questions. Gail volunteered to represent the committee at the hearing. Ellen indicated it was important to note that the ordinance will not go into effect until July 2021.

Nedra indicated she will post information about the ordinance on Eliot Strong, Eliot on Line and the Greenbriar Neighborhood Association Facebook pages. The posts will provide answers to some key questions, i.e.

- ✓ When will this take effect?
- ✓ Who will this help?
- ✓ How much is this going to cost me? (She will ask Dana about this financial aspect.)

Volunteer Engagement: Fran indicated she has been a volunteer coordinator in the past and offered to do that for the committee.

Motion: Ron moved, with Nedra seconding, to accept Fran's offer to be the volunteer coordinator. Ellen, Ron, Gail Nedra and Fran all voted in favor, none opposed.

The discussion on information on developing a volunteer manual was tabled. Nedra will send all her information on the lists of people who indicated they willing to volunteer to Fran

Motion: Ron moved, with Gail seconding, to adjourn the meeting. Ellen, Ron, Gail, Nedra, Fran all voted in favor. None opposed.

Meeting adjourned at 5:23pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Gail Licciardello