

## AGING IN PLACE COMMITTEE

### APPROVED MINUTES 8-20-2020 (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, Nedra Sahr, Michele Meyers, Melissa Albert

**Absent:** Liz Castillo, Francis Thomas

**Meeting called to order at:** 4:02pm

Ellen appointed newly elected alternative number Michele to serve as a voting member in Fran's absence. Fran was appointed as a voting member at the 8-13-20 Select Board meeting. Nedra Sahr was appointed timekeeper. Committee members agreed unanimously to accept the addition of the UnLonely Project to the agenda.

**Review of Minutes:** Corrections proposed:

Pg. 3: Change the last sentence Communication and Information to read: Nedra and Ron created a brief video describing the purpose of the Communication and Information Committee that was posted on the Eliot Strong Facebook page.

Pg. 4: Clarification that Jamie Carver is the correct name for the web site consultant.

**Motion:** Ron moved to approve changes and Nedra seconded. Ellen, Ron, Gail, Nedra, and Michele voted in favor, none opposed.

### **Chair Update**

**Meeting policy:** Ellen reviewed the rules regarding public access to all committee and subcommittee meetings. That is, a gathering of three or more committee or subcommittee members requires a minimum three-day public notification and public access through physical space, video streaming, or zoom. Discussion

followed. Future AIP meetings and subcommittee meetings will continue on zoom until Governor Mills changes the current rules.

**New England Grassroots Funds:** \$224.22 spent to repair hot water heater for an Eliot resident. Check with Karen Brown FootPrints Food Panty revealed no need for assistance at this time.

**AARP 2020 Challenge Grant:** National and statewide promotions were sent out today. Gail has agreed to spearhead the efforts to purchase and install the benches. She will collaborate with Melissa. AARP prefers the project is implemented by 12/31/20. Plans for celebrating are in progress.

### **Election of Officers**

The committee voted unanimously to elect members to the following positions:

Chair: Ellen Ceppetelli; Vice Chair: Nedra Sahr; Treasurer: Gail Licciardello

Fran Thomas was nominated and unanimously supported to serve as Secretary. However, the official vote will be delayed until the next meeting. Ellen will notify Fran to determine if she is willing to serve.

### **Budget**

The AIP 2020-2021 budget request for \$6000 was reduced by the Select Board to \$3000. This reduced amount was approved by town ballot. A detailed discussion of the implications of this budget will be an agenda item for the September 17th meeting. Ron reported that there is \$771.78 in the New England Grassroots Fund and \$3300 in the general budget as of June 30, 2020. Ellen will send Gail, the new treasurer, AIP budget and grant award information to assist in her new role.

### **AARP Livability Dashboard**

Ellen reviewed plans to work with Amanda Ouellette, Southern Maine Area on Aging (SMAAA), and Melissa to begin drafting the resource map data. She will ask the Fourth Economy consultant, hired by AARP, to provide the initial data on this portion of the Internet site.

## **Volunteer Engagement**

Ellen proposed the committee consider adding the Civil Participation and Employment domain to the action plan on recruiting volunteers. **See Attachment A** for the draft of goal, metrics, and outcomes that will be discussed at the September meeting.

A lengthy discussion followed in which members brainstormed about volunteer recruitment and AIP's connection to other groups and organizations with mutual interests and concerns that began with Eliot Strong (1410 members). This discussion led to a focus on what specific qualifications and actions AIP is seeking in its volunteers. Members referred to the action plan with an emphasis on the Information and Communication domain that seeks volunteers with expertise in website development and maintenance. In the Public Spaces domain, volunteers with expertise in landscape management might be helpful in the installation of five new benches at the Eliot Duck Basin. The Eliot Garden Association was mentioned as a potential partner. Ellen described how our potential participation in the Unlovely Project will drive our need for a volunteer facilitator and online participants in this pilot project.

Michele led the discussion of how to strengthen the collaboration with Eliot Strong. She identified two potential partners that include SOBO Central, a clearinghouse located in South Berwick that serves as an umbrella organization of volunteer services and Eliot Connects located in the Baha'i community in Eliot. Members unanimously agreed that initiating relationships with these two organizations is central to avoiding duplication of efforts and maximizing all our efforts. Michele will initiate these connections and alert members to potential meetings.

At the end of this discussion, members agreed to explore the SOBO Central website. Michele will post AIP requests for volunteer expertise on the Eliot Strong Facebook page. The first post will be created by Ron and Nedra to request expertise in web development and maintenance. After Gail has met with Melissa determine specific needs for installing and celebrating the new benches, she will create a post seeking assistance where needed.

## **UnLonely Project**

The AIP has been invited to become a participant in the Foundation for Art and Healing Aging's UnLonely support group pilot program. See **Attachment B** for details of this project that was shared with members prior to the meeting. Ellen met via zoom with its director, Amy Poueymirou, last week to learn more about the expectations of this project. At this point, the committee will explore how to meet the expectations if selected as a site. This would include providing a zoom room and recruiting a facilitator and seven to 15 participants for this eight-week experience. 60% of participants must be low income residents. Ellen will begin recruitment of these individuals by creating a post for the Eliot Strong Facebook, the town website, and the AIP email lists. She will contact Amy to share feedback from today's AIP meeting.

## **Promotion of Eliot as an AARP 2020 Challenge Grantee**

Ellen reviewed expectations from AARP regarding the promotion of Eliot as a 2020 Challenge Grantee. The plan is as follows: Ellen will tweak the sample AARP promotion materials and send to all members. Michele will post it on Eliot Strong. Gail and Ron will send this as a press release to the publications used in the past to promote AIP's work. Melissa will post this on E alert from the town website. The committee prefers to do this announcement simultaneously but recognizes that it may be two weeks before publications appear. Ellen will alert all members to the date once an estimated date for the press releases appearance is known.

Meeting adjourned at 5:30 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Ron Ceppetelli