

AGING IN PLACE COMMITTEE
MINUTES 12-17-2020 (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, Tracy Dunton (late), Melissa Layman, Gail Licciardello, Michelle Meyer, Nedra Sahr, Melissa Albert

Absent: none

Guests: none

Meeting called to order at: 4:02pm

Check In:

Ellen shared that Katherine Holmes is interested in applying for one of the vacant seats on AIP. Ms. Holmes has the application. The Select Board reconvenes on January 7, 2021, which is the earliest they could interview her. All hope she could be on board for the January meeting.

Brief discussion about the latest news on Covid-19 and the vaccine.

To stay on task, Ellen suggests AIP adopt marking new, important ideas that come up during conversations as “parking lot issues” or “bin issues” to keep members on topic and provide structure. Ellen noted that these ideas are often great and should be revisited at a future meeting but that they often divert conversation from the agenda item at hand. All agreed.

Review of Minutes for November 19, 2020:

Gail referred to the bottom of the first page of the Minutes for clarification as language seems to be missing. Ellen pointed out that the sentence is referring to “any additions to the dashboard.” Gail was fine with that clarification.

Gail suggested that comments on the Treasurer’s Report be removed from the Minutes and replaced with only the Motion. Additionally, the Treasurer’s Report will be an attached report with each agenda.

All agree that spelling errors in the Minutes could be corrected efficiently in Word with auto spellcheck. Ellen will ask Tracy to do that.

All agreed members should be marked as present or absent, in parentheses add arrived late, left early, or another notation in the present column. Ellen pointed out that Ron was marked as absent but he is no longer a member.

Ellen asked that the following wording be added to clarify the situation: "Since there is a voting-member vacancy, Ellen appointed Melissa Layman as a voting member for this meeting."

Nedra asked if they may review/revise the Minutes prior to their being presented. Ellen will check Robert's Rules to make sure they are not breaking any rules in doing that.

Gail pointed out on page four, it mentions we got a score of 5 out of 100 for walkability and that Nedra would make changes to the dashboard, but it was Gail who said she would make changes.

Gail proposed in future Minutes, Melissa Layman be referred to as Melissa L and Melissa Albert be referred to as Melissa A.

Motion:

Motion to accept the Minutes as amended. Nedra so moved and seconded by Gail and Tracy. Since there is a voting-member vacancy, Michele is a voting member for this meeting. Temporary secretary Nedra took the Roll Call asking who was in favor of the Minutes as amended: Ellen, Gail, Michele, Tracy, Nedra. (Melissa L is not a voting member in this meeting.)

Update:

In her role as a Fellow, Ellen is improving her Zoom skills with private lessons, participating in a two-part grant-writing classes, and attending more Age Friendly group meetings. In the latter, the idea for a Maine Tech Group came up. Ellen sent out an email about this. Ellen met with Emily Berrill of the Maine Elder Abuse Institute about joining a brainstorming group aimed at helping older members of the community with technology by bringing together all community-based tech resources. Ellen explained as an example Saco's Handy Helper Tech where people in the community help older community members. The group has not met yet but

Eliot has received an invitation to join the Maine Tech Group under the Maine Elder Abuse Institute which will meet monthly. All thought this is a good idea.

Ellen encouraged everyone to do their own work, particularly in the areas of information and communication, as opposed to turning to Melissa A. Ellen would like to take things off Melissa A's plate because of the pandemic on her workload. Nedra suggested asking Melissa to let AIP know how we can help.

Treasurer's Report

Arts & Humanities Fund honorarium not received yet. Ellen expects it to arrive soon. Gail reported no change from the October Treasurer's report and requested Select Board receive a report every 6 months starting this December. Ellen agreed that is a great idea.

Michele made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. Voting yes: Ellen, Gail, Michele, Nedra, Tracy – all in favor.

Ellen reported that the Foundation for Arts and Healing sent emails to everyone who participated in the fall group about the Creativity Club. Ellen shared that an MOU will be coming for February, and AIP will recruit ten new members for that, giving AIP two months to recruit people. Discussion followed about how to recruit people. Kyle Lewis could contact people on his list. Michele suggested posting could go on Eliot Strong and outreach to building behind Barron Place, beyond Post Office via flyers on bulletin boards. Other places to post would be boards at post office, library, Golden Harvest. This is open to both Eliot and Kittery as Kittery people have been involved in Eliot efforts in past. Ellen has the flyer, just needs the date, will need to get in touch with Louise.

Nedra volunteered Melissa L and herself as this effort falls under communication. Ellen noted anyone who uses these places regularly can put the flyer up in those locations. Ellen suggested this is an opportunity to take something off Melissa A's plate. Michele offered inclusion of effort in her monthly legislative email newsletter, which begins in January, and particularly its local section for Eliot.

Melissa L suggested adding information about the AARP dashboard. Michele agreed that is fine, anything along those lines would be great. Ellen noted the Eliot Connects group (34 people including churches) may be another outlet as well as past participants who may have friends that would be interested.

Maine Community Fund Mini-Grant

Ellen reported this application for additional benches is due January 15, 2021 with a \$2,500 cap. Ellen explained that Patricia Oh was clear MCF is shifting priorities, we should act now.

Discussion focused on where to put the benches: Great Works Regional – Douglas Woods, Goodwin Farm area near woods. Savage on 101, Dover Road, old skateboard Park (now an ice rink) and the Library. Concern raised whether the woods areas were places seniors would go and suggested the library. Melissa L shared a conversation with Tom McDonnell concerning the security of the benches.

Ellen provided information about what sites had been explored previously. She used Eliot's 5 out of 100 walkability rating and recent sidewalks improvement as reasons to consider bench placement along State Road. All agree putting benches at library would encourage people to walk there. Ellen's goal is to tie this grant to the AARP Challenge Fund Grant to demonstrate AIP's ability to successfully build on a project. Ellen will email a copy of the AARP grants after adjournment.

Parking lot: Nedra proposed future benches could be built by funds to memorialize loved ones on the benches.

Ellen explained grant is for up to \$2,500.00, which is roughly three benches. Funds to secure all AIP benches could be covered by AIP budget. Melissa L will reach out to Tom McDonnell to find out if he would assemble them. Gail will reach out to Public Works Dept to do the work. Nedra proposed Eliot Garden Club assistance in beautifying sites.

MOTION: Nedra made a motion that all three benches be placed at the library and reach out to garden club to landscape area. Seconded by Michele. Motion amended by Nedra that placement of benches be in the vicinity of the library
Voting yes: Ellen, Gail, Michele, Nedra, Tracy – all in favor.

Maine AARP Livability DASHBOARD

Ellen opened floor for next steps on dashboard. Gail shared that she had sent edits to Fourth Economy, yet has seen no changes. She raised concern that their contract with ME AARP has ended. Nedra wondered about the impact of this on

costs. Ellen assured AIP that this is a high priority for ME AARP wants and she will, contact Megan Nestor with this concern.

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION

Ellen asked AIP to consider our current status and future goals in relation to the action plan. Discussion followed that identified Transportation domain as an area we have not started; and consideration of adding domains to the plan based upon focus on volunteerism and recent Successful Aging Program collaboration. Ellen referred to draft hand out on the domains of Social Participation and Civil Engagement and Employment that included objectives and potential outcomes. Discussion followed.

MOTION: Nedra made a motion to add the two domains of Social Participation and Civil Engagement and Employment to the action plan. Voting yes: Ellen, Gail, Michele, Nedra, Tracy – all in favor.

Nedra initiated discussion about the AIP logo. Michele provided an update from the artist, Robert (Bobby) Schwartz who expects to send a draft of the logo to Michele by next Wednesday. She will email to all for critique and feedback. Expected cost is less than \$160.

Michele encouraged members to join Eliot Online on FB to post items.

The post AARP Challenge Grant report is due on January 31, 2021. Ellen is in the process of collecting data for the report. Melissa L shared her plans and progress in creating the video and photos to accompany the report. The video will explain the grant, with the benches are and run credits with names of town workers and AIP members. She anticipates January 1 completion date so that all members can critique and provide feedback. Michele proposed consideration of peering down the video so that it could be placed on a member's Instagram page or Facebook. Tracy estimated that the time limit on the social media is less than 40 seconds. Discussion followed on plans to create a press release.

Ellen asked if community members had seen the recently placed signs along River Road telling people to slow down? She wondered if they have been placed there by the town or if another group had been involved. Ellen had sent an email to members that referred to Slow Down Maine. Tracy explained that this group is asking communities to identify problem sites in their community where it is not

safe to ride or bike. She completed a survey online and will send this link to committee members.

Parking lot: ADUs – Planning Commission progress on ADU ordinance. Ellen will contact Dennis Lentz.

Melissa L and Nedra are working on a robust plan for volunteers. Ellen reminded the committee of the Saco volunteer documents reviewed several months ago and considered as a good template for our work ahead in this area. She will resend. AIP volunteers are covered by the town's insurance. Brief discussion of the pros and cons of having volunteers fill out a registration form.

Parking lot: Melissa L proposed that the committee could use a central location to house information and shared that she had looked into Google groups. The benefit would be to reduce members search through emails to find key committee documents. This one place online would improve our ability to communicate and collaborate. Ellen suggested Melissa A should be brought into this important discussion. One of Ellen's initial concerns was whether the public should or must also have access to this sharing? Melissa L proposed that we might consider an Eliot AIP email. Melissa A agreed that she be part of this important discussion.

Holiday wishes and meeting adjourned at 5:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Ceppetelli