

## AGING IN PLACE COMMITTEE

### Virtual meeting 4-16/2020

*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, Jean Paulantonio, Francis Thomas, Liz Castillo, Melissa Albert

**Absent:** *(Although all members attended the meeting, due to connectivity issues, members at various times, were not connected to the meeting, and may not have been able to fully participate)*

**Guests:** none

**Meeting called to order at:** 4:22pm

#### **Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings:**

##### February 20, 2020 Minutes:

**Motion:** Nedra moved to amend the minutes, with Ron seconding it. The corrections are as follows:

- Pg 2. (under the 3<sup>rd</sup> indent) Ellen has emailed Kristina Goodwin on how to access the AARP's "ABCs of ADUs so that she can forward it to the planning board
- Add the following (under the 4<sup>th</sup> indent) change to the following: quasi- judiciary committee, or judiciary community
- Pg 5. Should indicate the motion was seconded by Ron

*(Formal roll call not taken, but none opposed the motion)*

##### March 2, 2020 Aging in Place Committee and Select Board Workshop

Fran moved, with Ron seconding it, to amend the minutes as follows"

There were several corrections throughout the minutes regarding the correct name and spelling of the Chair of the Select Board. The correct spelling of his name is: Richard Donhauser. On the second page, the following needs to be added to the purpose of the article: *"Because the survey results indicated tax relief as a high priority, resources were available to create an ordinance and the election date of June 9, 2020 required immediate action."* On the last page Ellen Ceppetelli's name needs to be correctly spelled by adding an additional p.

Fran, Ellen, Ron, Gail, Jean, Nedra, all voted in favor, none opposed

Deborah Parent was the recording secretary for that workshop. Ellen will request that she amend the minutes as outlined.

### March 5, 2020 Emergency Meeting Minutes

**Motion:** Jean moved, and Nedra seconded it to accept the minutes as written.

Ellen, Ron, Gail, Jean, Nedra all voted in favor, none opposed.

### **Chair Update:**

- Ellen participated in a call among all the Age Friendly Chairs. They discussed the change in the June 9<sup>th</sup> election day to some time in July. They also discussed the economic impact of the COVID -19 Virus of various communities. Maine was the most vulnerable state in the country, due to tourism being a major industry, the age of our population and the poor quality of broad band access in the state. Florida and Nevada were the next most vulnerable states
- AIP received a grant of \$1000 from the New England Grass Roots Fund (check received today) The purpose of the grant is to provide relief to community-based responses to the COVID -19 virus. The grant indicated that we would partner with Michelle Meyers's Eliot Strong group. The purpose would be to provide food and medication shopping assistance for people who cannot get out. The money would be used for reimbursement of mileage. It was initially thought that additional food would be needed. Ellen has talked with Karen, director of the Foot Prints Food Pantry. The food pantry has not seen a significant increase in number of people requesting assistance. There are other food pantries in the area, such as Gather, of Portsmouth which provides food pantry for 25mile radius, Fair Tide, and School lunch programs. So, at this point there does not appear to be a need for additional food resources. There might be a need for hygiene products. Eliot Strong has indicated we need to be aware of concerns about how to identify people in need of assistance and balance that with need for privacy. Ellen relayed that she had communicated with Melissa Albert who indicated she cannot release the names of people who have needed assistance, but she can inform them of resources that Eliot Strong and AIP can offer. Discussion of how else the grant money could be used. It was suggested that perhaps masks, gloves and hand sanitizer could be purchase and distributed, along with instructions of how to correctly use the items. Michelle has also suggested that one thing that Eliot Strong could do is make masks and gloves. Perhaps this grant. money could be used to buy masks and gloves. Ellen contacted the grant people and learned that we could use the money for anything that serves the community during this crisis, so she feels masks, gloves and hand sanitizers. Before we can spend the grant money, we need to get the select board approval to approve receiving the grant.

Ellen will get in touch with Michelle to see how we can coordinate with Eliot Strong to meet the needs of Eliot residents. We need to be cautious and research carefully the best way to spend this money.

### **2020 AARP Challenge Grant:**

Gail has begun completing a rough draft of the challenge grant for the request of \$5000 to install park benches at the Eliot Boat Basin. There are several issues which need to be addressed. The beginning of grant application basically is asking for identifying information and some demographic data.

Gail suggested we request \$5000 for benches, the cost of which varies from \$400-\$1000. The boat basin is 9 acres of field which abuts the river, is fairly level that would be a lovely safe place to walk and sit. It was suggested to have benches on trail and near the boat launch. A concern was we needed methods to prevent theft. The benches would need to be professionally installed. One issue is that needs to be addressed is that the state owns the land, and the park is managed by the town. Dana has indicated that if the benches are movable, then we may not need permission from the state to install them

Melissa indicated that town manager has concerns about what the benches are made of, sturdy, easily maintained. We need to have planning and coding departments and have Dana reach out to his state contacts. Ellen has seen resources from AARP concerning benches and proper placement and other livable communities may have information willing to share. Jean Saunders may have information.

Suggested that we get in touch with Richard Donhauser so that we can get the S Berwick/Eliot Rotary to assist us.

Jeremy Fogg is the current president of the S Berwick Eliot Rotary and may be able to respond to us.

Need to find out who to talk with about getting all the information from town employees

Suggested we do a timeline for getting everything done.

Melissa will send email with contact information of employees in town who we need to coordinate.

Review of draft application: Concerns raised include:

- Should the benches be movable, do we risk the chance of them being stolen
- Metrics: How do we measure the effectiveness of the grant. The installation of the five benches would be one measure, but we also need a measure of how much the park is used. The park is frequently used. There are measures of how often the pavilion is used and how many boats are launched from the boat basin, which both could possibly be used as metrics.

We could do a small satisfaction questionnaire after the benches are installed.

When writing the grant, it is important to list all the relevant domains that AARP has for livable communities. Questioned if there are liability issues involved in the park? Need to ask that to make sure it does not add to any financial liability to the town.

In section 21, Ellen will go through and add all the specifics of grants/fellow etc. that we have received

Gail will get in touch with Richard Donhauser, and Ellen will get in touch with Jeremy Fogg about rotary's assistance with benches/grant.

Reviewed the discussion about grant money, we have received for Liz who did not have access to our earlier discussion. Ellen reviewed that we received money for food and meds, but currently that is not an urgent need. Right now, people do not need money for food or meds, and delivery service is being provided. But there is a concern that there is a need for masks, gloves, and instruction in proper use. Liz is concerned about people who do not have access to computers for information and who are becoming socially isolated, and depressed. Discussed the best way to contact them, might be through a phone bank and perhaps Eliot Strong could help with that.

Gail indicated she would develop a timeline for grant in order to make sure everything gets done in time.

Motion to Adjourn: Gail moved to adjourn the meeting, with Ron seconding it. Ellen, Ron, Gail Nedra voted in favor, none opposed.

Meeting Adjourned at 5:29pm

Respectfully submitted,  
Gail Licciardello