



Eliot Aging In Place
Committee

Mission: The AIP mission is to provide advocacy for changes in Eliot's physical, economic, and social environment that enable Eliot residents, especially older residents, to live in their homes for as long as possible and that foster the creation of services and programs geared to keeping all residents active and engaged in the community.

AGING IN PLACE COMMITTEE

MINUTES SPECIAL MEETING 05-27-2021 (virtual meeting)

Present: Ellen Ceppetelli, Melissa Layman, Nedra Sahr, Katherine Holmes, Gail Licciardello, Ann Lukegard

Absent: Michele Meyer, Melissa Albert

Guests: Jordan Miles, serving as online technician

Meeting called to order at: 2:00 pm

Meeting called to order by Ellen Ceppetelli.

The purpose of this special meeting is to finalize plans for a proposed June 27, 2021, celebration to mark the installation of benches at the Eliot Boat Basin and the Fogg Library. Tentative plans suggested a three-part event: speaking program at the Fogg Library, walk from the Library to the Boat Basin, and event at the Boat Basin.

To facilitate discussion and decision-making, members received from Ann prior to the meeting a worksheet with information about what planning had been done and what needed to be done for June 27. Melissa L suggested before going through the worksheet that the members decide on the location of the June 27 event. Ellen reviewed original plans and challenges in planning, particularly that the Boat Basin is not available until 3pm on June 27. Ellen turned to Ann to talk about the planning. Ann said that the original plan had three elements and she is open to whatever everyone wants to do and that she understands that the Boat Basin is key in planning. She does like that the Library's Community Market already provide people coming to the Library and that Lydia and Laurel are on board. Ann shared that she thought if the Committee went with just a Boat Basin event she did not see it as garnering as much press coverage. She added that they would have to scramble to plan events at the Boat Basin, be it a music performance or something else, to get that scheduled for June 27.

Ellen added that there is no timeline or due date that says AIP has to have an event by a certain date, the only timeline is in terms of funding to pay for a celebration if it happens after June 30th and the end of the 2020-2021 fiscal year.

Melissa L shared that she is still concerned about Covid and mask requirements. Ellen shared that there is no longer a mask requirement in Eliot if people are vaccinated but that meetings are still happening by zoom. This is new and Ellen just received this information in an email. Melissa L asked

if there is any problem with rescheduling all of this, and just selecting one location and make it as streamlined as possible. Two locations have too many moving parts. Melissa L also added that as she is new to Eliot, she does not have a lot of people she can ask to come to a Boat Basin event.

Nedra asked what AIP's goal is, is it to celebrate the Boat Basin, is to get the word out that AIP is adding to the enjoyment of senior citizens and all people? Nedra thought this was going to be public recognition for what we have done to get more people involved with AIP and that it would be great to have the press there. Ellen shared that while we are celebrating the benches in this event, we will also be celebrating livable communities.

Gail asked if we know that the proclamation has been approved and when will we have that information. Ann shared that she had called the Governor's office about the status but was directed to a voice mail system. Ann did not leave a message as she thought it better to reach out to Michele to see if she could check on the status, to not interfere with any efforts Michele may have put in motion. Gail said that the Library has never had a marketplace before and we do not know that there will be a crowd there. The Library has not even been opened on Saturdays for that long. Gail asked if anyone knows how many vendors will be at the Library.

Ellen responded that she agreed that there is no way to predict the number and that the one positive aspect was that the Library was already having this event and people were going to be there and AIP would build on that. She also shared that we can follow up with Michele following the meeting and also ask the Library about vendors and who might be there. Ellen added that this would be a bit collaborative with the Library as both the Library and AIP would promote what each is doing. And we would need to develop a communication plan.

Gail said she felt that the celebration was really being planned as part of the AARP grant and that she feels committed to living up to what we said we would do in the grant. Gail added that Eliot Festival Days is happening this year at the end of September and by then the benches assigned for the Library will have arrived and we could have a second celebration at the Library with the benches. She is not in favor of moving benches from the Boat Basin that were funded by AARP to sit in as the benches at the Library funded by the Maine Community Fund. Gail thought having an AIP Eliot Festival Days booth near the Library would be a good way to celebrate the Library benches then.

Ellen asked do we celebrate everything during the Eliot Festival Days rather than planning two events. Gail added that there had been a Friday night event down by the Boat Basin as part of Eliot Festival Days. Nedra shared that there is no longer Friday night activities as part of the Eliot Festival Days.

Katherine agreed that there is a lot of moving parts. Katherine thought a smaller scale event that focused on involving Eliot's communities with older residents might be best, especially if there is a van or bus that could help transport people to such an event, send an invitation or post posters to get that population at an AIP event. She wondered how much outreach had been done in that area and that she would be interested in helping with this. She liked the idea of a smaller scale event that would introduce the public to what is going on and getting volunteers and the community involved. Katherine said she likes doing community outreach, which has been a big part of her

nursing experience. Ellen liked Katherine's idea about involving seniors and making the event available and accessible to them. Ellen said Eliot does have a van that can transport people. Gail shared that the Boat Basin is a busy place with people putting their boats in the water.

Discussion turned to the 3:00 to 8:00pm time slot available to AIP for an event at the Boat Basin on June 27. Ellen asked if we want to plan events for later in the day on June 27 and if so do we want to do all components. Melissa shared concern that everything would not get done in time. Gail agreed and shared that getting the plantings done in time is a challenge. Ellen said we have five weeks until this would be happening and that Ann will be away during that time and Ellen will be moving into her new home during that time. Ellen suggested moving the celebration until September and working with the Eliot Festival Days. Ellen pointed out that if we wait until September the benches will be in place. Nedra suggested talking to Cindy Waters, the Eliot Festival Days chair, to see what AIP can do during the Eliot Festival Days, including a possible Friday night event. Nedra said if the Governor does recognize June 27 as Eliot Age Friendly Day, why not set up at the Library and have the ice cream and celebrate that way. Gail said she liked the idea of cooperating with other committees in town, the Garden Club, Eliot Festival Days, maybe even the Conservation Committee, getting more of the town's committees together so more people are committed to making the event a success. Ellen pointed out that festivals change over time with the change of people organizing them and that she likes the idea of putting our event in the middle of the Eliot Festival Days.

Consideration was given to planning the celebration during the September Eliot Festival Days with AIP having a table and then doing more than just a table. Gail wondered if the Eliot Festival Days 5K road race could go down around the Boat Basin. Nedra pointed out that there would still be the parade and you cannot move the crowd and if that is not the reason there is a reason why the 5K cannot be re-routed. Gail said she was thinking having the race head down to the Boat Basin bring more attention to the Boat Basin and she is just sharing ideas.

Melissa L asked about the AIP having a presence at the June 27th Community Market at the Library. Ellen added that AIP could still celebrate Eliot Age Friendly Day on June 27th at the Library if the Governor grants the proclamation. Melissa thought AIP could go down to the Community Market anyway with updated brochures. The proclamation, if granted, would just be for this year. Ellen pointed out that we still could do some smaller things at the Community Market on June 27th, especially if it is proclaimed Eliot Age Friendly Day as that will reflect AIP's accomplishments. Gail said we could have a printout of our accomplishments and proposed future plans. Ellen asked if discussion should continue or if the committee is ready to put efforts toward an event during Eliot Festival Days. Nedra pointed out that we have a wonderful banner to use on June 27th.

MOTION: Nedra moved to suspend the celebration of the benches at Dead Duck on June 27th, 2021. Gail seconded the motion.

The motion was discussed as clarification was needed about what was being suspended, all events or just the event at Dead Duck. Nedra said we are taking them one at a time. Ellen said we need to decide what we are doing on June 27th and what is the motion proposing that we suspend. Melissa L asked if AIP would still move forward with the Library event, with the proclamation and Michele

reading it, without unveiling benches. Ellen asked could we just have a motion to suspend the plans we have to date for June 27th. Nedra said we have a motion on the table and we must vote it up or down. Ellen asked again if the committee needed to speak about it some more.

Ann read the motion as she had it and as it was clarified: Nedra moved to suspend the celebration of the benches at Dead Duck on June 27, 2021. Gail seconded the motion. Five voted yes, no one voted no, the motion passed.

MOTION: Gail moved that any tentative plans that we have made for June 27th be ended at this point with hopes of developing a new plan. Ellen said we cannot have a motion with “hopes.” Gail clarified her motion and Ann read it: Gail moved that AIP end tentative plans made to date for June 27th so AIP may establish new plans. Nedra seconded the motion.

Melissa L attempted to clarify that we have two separate agendas – we want to celebrate the proclamation on the 27th if it goes through and we want to celebrate and show AIP accomplishments and the second part is planning a bench celebration during Eliot Festival Days. Gail said that is not what she meant. She meant AIP would develop new plans for the 27th at the Library without benches. Ellen said it sounds like we have moved from celebrating the benches to having a place to announce a proclamation that may occur. Discussion lead by Nedra and Gail followed to try to clarify what was being said in the motion. Gail had meant to say in the motion that AIP would develop a simpler celebration at the Library to celebrate the proclamation. Ellen recapped what had been said to be that the Dead Duck celebration is cancelled, now we want to say we are going to end the tentative plans to date which is everything that had been planned, we pass that and then we recreate everything we want to plan. Gail said that is what she was trying to say. All agreed that the motion’s meaning is to end all existing tentative plans for June 27th. All voted in favor, no one opposed, the motion passed.

Ellen directed members to plan now to celebrate everything in the fall during the Eliot Festival Days. Nedra said that is fine but what is more pressing is what do we do if the Governor’s proclamation comes through. Ellen said we can discuss that but we also need to be clear that we are moving our celebration plans to the fall if we are all in agreement.

MOTION: Melissa L moved that AIP celebrate the benches at Dead Duck and the Library during Eliot Festival Days in September. Ann seconded that. There was no need for further discussion. All voted in favor, no one opposed, the motion passed.

Ellen asked what do the members want to do on June 27th at the Library if there is a proclamation and if there is not a proclamation. Nedra asked about having the Shain’s of Maine ice cream that day to draw people. Gail said the owner of Shain’s said he would do it so that was possible. Ellen asked Ann to share some information about Shain’s that the committee had found out about.

Ann shared news that a year ago accusations of racial comments by the owner and complaints from employees were brought against Shain’s of Maine, the business that had agreed to donate ice cream to the June 27th event. Ann pointed out that as appointed officials we represent everyone as do Town officials, Representative Meyer, and the Governor. Members agreed given this information they would not accept the donation from Shain’s of Maine. Melissa L said she could reach out to the

owner of Annabelle's Ice Cream to see if they might want to donate some ice cream for the day. Melissa L added that if AIP received the proclamation, we could still have Michele read it and put up the AIP banner for some visual recognition. The brochures about AIP will need to be update. All agreed it is best to use existing banners than take on a new cost. Melissa L and Ann will look at the existing materials, especially the banner, and contact Melissa Albert at Town Hall for printing information about other materials.

Discussion turned to the logistics of scooping the ice cream to those attending and Ann suggested the ice cream be pre-scooped into eco-friendly containers with lids to efficiently hand out with eco-friendly spoons and napkins. Ann volunteered to pre-scoop and keep the individual servings in her large freezer. Melissa L said she could work on that with Ann and all thought AIP could have an ice cream scooping party. Gail brought up having toppings. Others thought it would be too much, especially post-Covid, and the need to be as safe as possible. Ellen asked will we have ice cream in June or September. Melissa L suggested both, Gail thought do it in June and see how it goes.

Nedra brought up the issue of plantings around the benches at Dead Duck and that extra time will make that more do-able. Gail said she has more information about that and wondered if we are meeting next week. Melissa L turned conversation back to June 27th to decide what AIP will do and proposed that if the proclamation does come through, we would still have Michele speak, have the press there, have a photographer, and have a banner printed out with our logo as well as updated brochures and materials about AIP. Gail said we have a six-foot banner, it just does not have our logo on it. Melissa L asked Ellen what the process is to have things printed.

The meeting was planned for an hour and Ellen asked if the meeting could go 15 minutes longer, Jordan said yes. Ellen said how can we use the next 15 minutes to make decisions. Ann clarified that given the decisions made that she would call Chief Moya and Interim Town Manager Carol Granfield to let them know the walk is off. Ellen added that she will call Michele to find out about the status of the proclamation. Gail thanked Ann for putting the details together to see what was needed, Ellen said it was not a waste of time as it all will be needed in the future.

Ellen returned to Melissa L's question about printing and materials. Ellen directed Melissa L to Melissa A to see about printing through the Town. Ann shared that we want the AIP logo on the podium or behind Michele as she is reading the proclamation so AIP is in any photos. Ellen directed Melissa L and Ann to check out the existing banner and everyone agreed with Nedra's attention to sustainability and not throwing one banner out for another. In terms of spending money, Ann pointed out that supplies for the ice cream would be about \$60.00.

MOTION: Gail moved that AIP spend no more than \$100.00 for cups spoons, and napkins for the ice cream AIP will be providing on the June 27, 2021. Melissa L seconded the motion. No further discussion was needed. All voted in favor, no one opposed, the motion passed.

Ellen asked what else needed to be discussed and when can everyone reconvene for another meeting. Ann shared that she will be traveling on June 17. Ellen asked about Megan Mongroo as photographer on the 27th. Melissa L said only if there is a proclamation and Michele. Everyone agreed. Gail said we need to get the word out. Ann said we are waiting on hearing about the proclamation and if it is going to happen then we can get the word out. Ann said without

mentioning the proclamation we can just let people know we will be at the Library on the 27th, but this just may not be valuable to the press. Melissa L and Ann will work together on getting the word out. Ellen reiterated that if there is no proclamation, AIP would still be at the Library on the 27th. Ellen suggested a time for the next meeting and that she is not available on Thursday the 3rd and Nedra is not going to be here and Gail will have out of town guests. Ellen will send out an email and see what dates would work for everyone and will also let everyone know what is happening after she speaks with Michele.

Gail reported on landscaping around the benches. Gail and Nedra met with Michelle Shields of the Garden Club. It was suggested that AIP put plants in whiskey barrels rather than in the ground which is mostly sand. Ellen shared perennial plantings need to be in the ground, Gail agreed. Gail wants to go back and talk to Michelle to see if there might be another plan. Nedra said whiskey barrels are expensive. Melissa L said we may have to go with the faux whiskey barrels and Gail agreed. Ellen asked if everyone knew what they had to do and would follow through on those things.

With the end of the Eliot fiscal year looming on June 30th, Ellen asked that members consider what can be purchased now with existing funds in preparation for the September event.

Nedra reminded everyone to vote on Tuesday, June 8 as that is when the budget will be voted on.

Nedra moved that the meeting be adjourned, Ann seconded, all agreed. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted.

Ann Lukegard