



*Eliot Aging In Place
Committee*

Aging In Place Committee

Town of Eliot, Maine

The mission of the Aging In Place (AIP) Committee 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.

Meeting Minutes

Thursday May 18 2023

I. Call to order

AIP Chair Ellen Ceppetelli called the May meeting of the Aging In Place (AIP) Committee at Eliot Town Hall and on the Town's OWL live feed to order at 4:05 pm.

II. Roll Call / "Chair Check In"

Attendees included (in person) Ellen Ceppetelli, Jenny Isler, Mike Thompson, Nedra Sahr, Karen Tomanio, Maureen Clark; (remotely) Melissa Layman. Excused Absences: Michele Meyer and Amanda Oulette. Ellen welcomed back Maureen Clark.

III. Approval of Minutes

Ellen reminded the secretary to use full names of attending & absent members. Motion votes must include full tally of votes, numbers for & against a motion. Jenny suggested using past minutes and present agenda as a guide. Secretary agreed. Minutes from April 20 meeting unanimously approved as amended.

IV. Order of Business

A. Treasurer's Report

Arts & Humanities: \$1724.42; Town Budget funds: 1032.70; Total: 2757.42. Treasurer's Report unanimously approved.

B. Chair Update

1. Suggested using Weekly Sentinel for health notices.
2. Senior Property Tax Assistance Program Fiscal year 2022: \$20,000 designated, \$3,128 distributed. Fiscal year 2023: \$13,391 distributed to 16 applicants. Balance \$3,481.
3. Candidates Forum. Due to perceptions of possible bias, it was decided that the Town of Eliot, including AIP, should not host a forum. Possible sponsors would be Eliot Online & Friends of the Fire Dept. Jenny said she would find out about Eliot Online & who might run it. Melissa wanted an email on who will be in charge of Candidates night. Ellen expressed a need for more information. Jenny will email information re Eliot Online to all.

4. Chair Yoga / Balance & Fall Workshops. Balance & Falls May 11: 12 people attended. Chair Yoga May 25: 11 people signed up. Ellen said most people found out about the events from Baran Place, 2 people from the Sentinel.

C. Aging Unbound Celebration

Due to rain forecast for May 20, discussion ensued about canceling the Aging Unbound Celebration or possibly relocating it indoors, or possibly changing it to a later date.

Relocating proved unfeasible. Jenny suggested doing it on Sunday August 20 to honor National Senior Citizens Day on August 21. Ellen suggested checking with the Salt River Trio band to determine their available dates before deciding. Jenny said we could use the additional time to look for storytellers. Motion: cancel the May 20 event. All in favor. Motion: check with Salt River Trio for dates. All in favor.

D. Newsletter

Article about Karen's trip with Meals on Wheels will be delayed for vetting. Ellen will do a summary of May AIP events. Melissa will write a notice about Candidates Night. Nedra will write up an interview with Town Manager Mike Sullivan about the Town Hall expansion. Ellen suggested including relevant quotes from the Community Assessment meeting. Jenny suggested doing an article about new member Amanda Oulette and her work with Southern Maine Agency on Aging. Article about Senior Property Tax Assistance may wait until next newsletter. Melissa suggested waiting until June to decide on using Canva to assist with the newsletter. Related to this, Nedra pointed out that AIP, as a Town Committee, is a non-profit. Melissa said she would do the newsletter, but needs all information in by May 26.

E. Public Spaces

Nedra summarized the work and plans at Dead Duck Boat Landing. Water & hoses are in place, the new interim Public Works Consulting Manager, Norm Albert, has promised a truck with loam and help planting new trees or large shrubs, and Ron Cepitelli has done weeding, with more help needed on that. More coreopsis and fertilizer are needed, and 2 limelight hydrangeas are suggested / requested to be planted near the benches. Total cost for all would be approx. \$600, to come from the Town Budget. Would also like to secure the benches, and maybe put a bench on the upper grassy area, if that area can be cleared. A watering calendar would be needed, with a 2-3 times per week regime, to be split among as many waterers as possible. Karen will try to recruit volunteers from the Baha'i community at Green Acre. Melissa suggested a google group calendar. Will vote on money at Budget Review (below).

V. Dementia Inclusive Communities

Ellen noted that we have an opportunity to apply for a \$500 Quick Action Grant, sponsored by the University of Maine - Patricia Oh, and by the University of New England's Geriatric Workforce Enhancement Program - Susan Wehry Director. Grant must be written by June 16 (by Ellen) and funds used and reported by September. We could use the funds to purchase memory tool kits, which include games and puzzles to benefit those with dementia. Aim would be to eventually house them at the Library, with interim housing at Town Hall, until the Library can take them. The video that is available online could also be used to benefit the Police & Fire Departments, to enhance their ability to deal with residents with dementia as they are serving the community.

Ellen will check with Mike Sullivan about temporarily housing the memory tool kits.
Motion to approve writing the \$500 Quick Action Grant, with the town as fiscal sponsor.
Motion unanimously approved.

VI. Budget Review

Town Budget money - \$1032.70 must be used by the end of June to make use of it.
Proposal would be for approx \$600 to be spent for Dead Duck needs as previously discussed, and using the \$300 assigned to Nedra for the Aging Unbound Celebration, to be used for any already spent Aging Unbound money (less than \$300), and for Canva subscription, if needed. This would leave a small amount of the Town Budget money left over. Motion: \$600 for Dead Duck unanimously approved. Motion: \$300 for Aging Unbound and for Canva subscription unanimously approved.

VII. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

VIII. Adjournment

Moved and passed. The meeting was adjourned at 5:25 pm.

Mike Thompson
Secretary

June 15, 2023
Date of approval
