



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.

AGING IN PLACE COMMITTEE

MINUTES 05-20-2021 (virtual meeting)

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

Absent: Nedra Sahr, Melissa Albert, Michele Meyer

Guests: Jordan Miles, town official, assisting with technical aspects of virtual meeting

Meeting called to order at: 4:02 pm

Check-in:

Ellen introduces Katherine Holmes who is a new member of the Aging in Place Committee. Katherine will serve as an alternate member. All welcomed Katherine and introduced themselves to her. Katherine is a retired RN who lives on Beech Road. Her family has been in Eliot for six generations. Welcome, Katherine.

Review of Minutes of 4-15-2021 meeting:

The Committee accepted the Minutes from the 4-15-2021 meeting with a few changes. Ann to submit the Minutes with changes as directed to the Town Clerk.

MOTION: Gail moved to accept the Minutes as amended. Melissa L seconded the motion. Ellen, Gail, Katherine, Melissa L, and Ann all voted yes. All approved. No one opposed. The Minutes passed as amended.

Chair Update:

Ellen reported on The Foundation for Art & Healing's "The UnLonely Project" (artandhealing.org/unlonely-project/). Ellen will email information to members to learn more about this effort in response to the growing public health concern of social isolation and loneliness.

Treasurer's Report:

Gail went through the Treasurer's Report (attached) for the committee.

MOTION: Ann moved to accept the Treasurer's Report, Melissa L seconded the motion. Ellen, Gail, Katherine, Melissa L, and Ann all voted yes. All voted in favor, no one opposed, the motion passed.

Budgets:

Ellen explained she had sent the previous year's and current proposed budgets to the Committee to see the history of Town funds used by AIP. The Town's Budget Committee has recommended that the AIP budget for FY 2021-2022 be decreased by \$2000.00. Gail said the Town will vote on the budget and that the Select Board suggested that the AIP budget for FY 2020-2021 be kept as requested. Ellen explained that in AIP's previous year's budget included \$800.00 in funds to create and provide upkeep for an AIP website that went unused as AIP decided to use the Town of Eliot website instead. All agreed it is challenging to project what is ahead. Moving forward, Ellen would like to have two Committee members or herself and another member consider all planning and budget possibilities ahead of time to better prepare for submitting a projected FY budget.

In that spirit, Ellen asked the Committee members to think about what they foresee AIP undertaking the 2021-2022 fiscal year. She pointed out some known costs: a mailing to residents costs about \$1200.00 and the recent Foundation of Art & Healing programs cost \$400, specifically \$150 on the zoom site and \$250 on supplies. She added that in the future funds may be needed for volunteer recognition and events. Gail reminded everyone that the Eliot fiscal year ends on June 30, 2021.

Benches:

Melissa L spoke about the anchors for the security of the benches. She shared a screen shot (right) of what the anchors look like and how they work. Cost estimate is \$50.00 for each bench. Melissa L expects the anchors to be in the first week of June. Tom will assist in the installation and Tracy will help with landscaping around the benches. Ellen asked if members liked the security design and all did. Gail shared that mulch should be purchased for around the benches so people have a non-weedy surface to stand on. Costs were discussed. Melissa L said the security system of \$50.00 each for seven benches will be \$350.00. Gail said the cost for the plaques on the benches is \$20 for two plaques and a cost of \$5.00 for screws. Discussion focused on the cost of mulch, flowers, and plantings for the benches. As the Library benches will be situated near an existing memorial garden, costs were estimated for five locations. In total and with rounding up, total costs were estimated to be \$800.00 (\$400 for the security hardware, \$30 for plaques, \$70 for mulch, \$300 for perennials).



MOTION: Gail motioned that AIP spends no more than \$800.00 on security and beautification of the benches, Katherine seconded the motion. Ellen, Gail, Katherine, Melissa L, and Ann all voted yes. All voted in favor, no one opposed, the motion passed.

Public Spaces – June 27 Event:

Ellen asked Ann to update the Committee on draft plans for a proposed June 27, 2021, celebration of the installation of the benches with the Town. Ann had shared via email with the members a one-pager that listed in general what was needed for the three aspects of the event as well as how to “get the word out” to the public about the event. Ann outlined the three proposed aspects of the plan: the event at the Fogg Library which would include a formal speaking program and unveiling of

the two newest benches; a 1.6 mile walk from the Library benches to the existing benches at the Boat Basin; and an event at the Boat Basin. The floor was opened to discussion.

Gail said that the actual two benches were taking longer than the others to be delivered and would not be delivered until July. Discussion ensued with the decision that two of the benches from the Boat Basin will be moved to the Library to serve as the surrogates for the event. There was concern about getting the correct plaques on the borrowed benches, and all thought that could be done temporarily. Melissa L raised concern about what Covid restrictions may be still in place for June 27 and that AIP stay true to those, all agreed. Melissa L oversees AIP Communications and Information for AIP and as such noted that she and Ann will be working together in those areas for the June 27 event. Melissa L shared the AIP FB group page she created and all agreed it looked great and should be launched and used to get the word out about the June 27 event. Gail suggested that the day should be of interest to TV channels 6, 8, and 13, and everyone agreed it should be. The TV News was added to the press list. Discussion turned to logistics and specifics with members taking on duties. Music was discussed and the idea of a musical event at the Boat Basin. Katherine said she would reach out to Marshwood music department to see if there are student bands or musicians available. Gail mentioned that there have been bands performing at the Boat Basin in the past. Melissa L said deciding the timing of the event at the Library should include information about what is a good time for Michele and others. Making sure town officials, past AIP members, and other valued supporters was discussed; a personalized email invitation should be sent to all. Gail will work on that list. Town Planner Jeff Brubaker is a possible speaker as he has initiated Town input on making Eliot bike-and walk-able. Katherine has plants to donate and thought others might as well and that social media is a good way to reach out to people for assistance. Gail mentioned volunteers will be needed to help water and maintain the plants and she will also speak with members of the Garden Club at its upcoming plant sale.

Ellen reviewed specific assignments members had spoken up for concerning June 27:

- Ann, as the walk hinges on street closure, contact Chief Moya.
- Ellen, will check with Town on Covid restrictions and photographer.
- Gail, plants for benches, food for end of walk.
- Katherine, band, music.
- Melissa L, possible raffle giveaway.
- Melissa L and Ann, getting the word out

All decided a June 3rd meeting was needed to regroup and see where plans were at. In the meantime, members will update each other via emails.

Public Spaces – Maine Center on Aging May Call:

Ellen reported on the May Ask Age-Friendly Call hosted by the Maine Center on Aging at the University of Maine. The Bicycle and Pedestrian Coalition of Maine presented the topic on walkability and bike-ability. Eliot Town Planner Jeff Brubaker AICP was also on the call. The question posed to those in attendance was: What are the barriers in your town to people walking and biking? Jeff answered that for Eliot lack of infrastructure is the barrier. Ellen asked AIP members to think

about what we see as the barriers. Discussion turned to speeding, specifically on Goodwin Road, by vehicles as a barrier and danger to biking and walking on the road. Melissa L lives on Goodwin and spoke of regular accidents on the road, even landing on her front yard, and the killing of wild animals. Others shared that Maine reported a higher automobile death rate during Covid, even though there were fewer cars on the road in Maine during Covid, and the 85% rule where speed limits are set with agreement that 85% of drivers will drive that speed. Ellen asked each member to respond individually to the Town's recent request for community input on how to improve conditions in Eliot for walking and biking. Responses are received by the Town Planner Jeff Brubaker at planner@eliotme.org or by calling 439-1817 ext. 112.

Committee Updates

Communications & Information: Melissa L reported that she was not able to attend the last Eliot Connects meeting but will forward its latest email to AIP members. She said Eliot Connects now has a board and a Facebook page.

In Closing

Ellen reported that Michele texted her about Heart to Heart, a volunteer organization that serves older people and is headed by Judd Knox, the former CEO of York Hospital. She asked that all look at it: <https://hearttoheartagelesslove.org/>

Ellen asked members to consider if AIP wants to continue its work with the Foundation for Art & Healing for another year. Discussion on the topic will be on the agenda for the June meeting.

No one from the public joined the meeting. There was no public comment.

It was confirmed that AIP will meet virtually on Thursday, June 3, from 4:00 to 5:30 pm to further work on the June 27th event.

MOTION: Gail motioned that the meeting be adjourned. Ann seconded the motion. All agreed. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Lukejord



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Treasurer's Report May 12, 2021

Arts & Humanities Funds:

Previous Balance: \$1740.43

No new expenditures

Maine Community Fund Grant

Previous Balance \$2100.00

Purchase of 2 new park benches - \$2209.62

Balance (to be taken from town account) (-\$109.62)

Town Budget Funds:

Previous Balance \$2882.40

Cost of benches not covered by grant -\$109.62

New Balance \$2772.78

Submitted by Gail Licciardello