

Minutes of Age Friendly Committee Meeting January 11, 2023 - Approved

Present: Steve DeAngelis, Ed Dodge, Maggie Edmondson, Elaine Katz, Marianne Perry

Guest: Romaine Turin

Regrets: Eric Johnson

Minutes of December 2022 Approved

Old Business:

Readfield U – Ed will be checking on availability of the church facility .

Maggie presented the current list of presenters that have responded.

Marianne reported on a long list of potential presenters that she has called

Extensive discussion of additional possibilities.

Maggie suggested that all presenters be encouraged to fill out the Teacher Information Form by Jan 20 so that she can put together the schedule of classes.

The plan is to send this information by Jan 27 so that it is in the February Messenger.

Maggie will schedule an organizational meeting for Wed. Jan 25 at 9 am to continue the planning process

It was decided that due to the uncertainty that COVID may continue to be a concern, we will not pursue the potluck dinner this year.

Senior Café – Steve reported that the Café is scheduled to begin Tuesday Jan 17. The first meeting will be an introduction, brainstorming topics for future discussion and students will talk about their art projects as well as serve café treats.

Joe Austin from Neighbors Driving Neighbors will talk about this exciting future opportunity to get people thinking about using this service and spreading the word.

Steve also indicated that although he will be present at the first meeting, he will not be available for future Tuesdays. Marianne said that she will be available for some future meetings.

NDN Update – Elaine will attend an organizational meeting next Wed Jan 18. The minimum requirements for Readfield to get started is to find 3 drivers and 3 participants. Hopefully that information will

be available by that meeting. In addition to publicizing this at the Senior Café, Elaine will reach out to the NDN director to see if they can do a presentation during Readfield U.

Food Pantry – Elaine had an informational discussion with Greg and Nancy Durgin. They explained that the Readfield Foodbank runs completely on donations and grants. Greg shared the food pantry wish list:

- Volunteer delivery drivers and packers
- Assistance with grant writing – we will look over our volunteer list
- Include food pantry information in AF publicity
- Help organize holiday ham/turkey donations and help with fundraising.

The AFC does not engage in direct fundraising activities but we will try to be supportive with finding volunteers and publicity.

Handy Helper Brochure Update – with so many projects requiring immediate attention, updating the brochure has been delayed but the intent is to focus

on this during the February meeting.

Comprehensive Plan – Elaine reported back that the CPC is setting up informational workshops, the first one will be Jan 28 from 10 – noon. These will be excellent opportunities to make sure

that age friendly perspectives are given voice. Elaine will be attending the next CPC meeting on Wed Jan 18 and will see if a Comprehensive Plan presentation can be scheduled as part of

Readfield U. Additionally, Steve reported that there is a new committee being organized to take a new look at the future development of the Fairgrounds ball fields etc. This committee

will be asking for representatives from all town committees. For the present time, Elaine volunteered to act as that representative.

Meeting adjourned at 10:15 Whew!

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine

Comprehensive Planning Committee Minutes

January 18, 2023 (Approved)

Present: Jeffrey Carlson, Paula Clark, Jessica Cobb (KVCOG), Greg Durgin, Eric Dyer, Jessica Gorton, Elaine Katz, Greg Leimbach

Absent: Chris Cheney, Matt Nazar, Dennis Price

Jessica G. called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. in person at the Town Office and via Zoom.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Eric told the committee that he has updated the website so that there is more information about the Comprehensive Plan process available online. He said that people are showing more interest in the process and that interest should grow as we get closer to the public hearings.

Elaine said that the Age Friendly Committee is setting up Readfield U and asked if anyone wants to make a presentation about the Comp Plan. Jessica G. said she might not have time but thinks it's a good idea. Eric said that if no one else is available, he would fill in.

MINUTES

Greg D. moved to accept minutes from the December meeting. Elaine seconded. Unanimously approved with Paula abstaining as she was absent.

OLD BUSINESS

Survey Results

Eric said that nearly 200 surveys have been completed. He said some more responses were generated recently from an effort made at the Transfer Station. He noted that quality-of-life issues continue to draw praise for the town. For negatives, some people suggested the need for more restaurants and stores and a gas station.

There were some comments about town politics, and some people queried why the school was not included. The town does not have much authority over the schools, which are regional, but perhaps that should have been noted. There was also nothing in the survey about county government, other than police coverage.

Jessica C. suggested we might summarize some of the highlights of the survey results in each chapter. Ways to include the information were discussed, such as word clouds or putting the results in an appendices.

Public Hearing Planning

Eric met with Greg L. and Elaine to put together an agenda for the public events. The planned agenda is for a quick introduction, a discussion of the roles played by individuals and groups such as KVCOG, a review of highlights of the plan, then 40 to 60 minutes on four key areas more idea-focused rather than sticking to chapter format. Attendees will divide into four groups with process leaders. Topics would include Foster Local Economic Development, Active Lifestyles for All Ages, Future Readiness and Civic Engagement.

Paula suggested that because of the open nature of the topics that perhaps this was something should have been done earlier, as at this point the plan is nearly complete. There was discussion about whether the events will be a public hearing or an informational session. The idea is to expose residents to what has already been done but to be open to new information at the same time. Four leaders are needed. Elaine and Greg L. and Jessica G. are available. Paula said she might be available for one meeting. Another volunteer is still needed. Eric will attend but move from group to group.

Future Land Use

As they had planned, Paula and Matt presented this chapter to the Planning Board at their first meeting in January.

One of the primary concerns the CPC has discussed is that much of the growth in town is not going to the areas designated as desirable for growth and some possible remedies for that have been discussed. The Planning Board meeting also addressed this issue as well as others. Paula reviewed some of the comments from that meeting. They include:

- PB members expressed a lot of support for maintaining the rural character of the community
- The possibility for a third category of rural residential district. Currently the town has rural and rural residential; a new rural resource district would provide adequate protection for resources that are currently vulnerable.
- Modify the academic district to allow housing, with the possibility of using school buildings for temporary housing.
- Imposing an impact fee on growth not happening in growth zones with funding to go to those who do. (Has an impact fee ever been done before? Paula said she and Matt would look into it.)
- Additional infrastructure to growth areas as an incentive.
- Address the issue of short-term rentals. (Jessica C. noted that enforcement can be difficult, and Eric said that these rentals are often not owned by Mainers. Greg L. pointed out that ADUs turn into short-term rentals could become a problem.)
- Allowing increased density with smaller lot sizes, back lot access, and adjusting open space and setback requirements.

The committee discussed how to proceed on this chapter. Paula said she thinks the formatting needs work. Jessica C. said this chapter is different from the rest since it's a plan not a regular chapter. Jessica C. suggested meeting with Matt and Paula to work on it further.

Goals and Policies

Jessica C. presented some information about state mandates for goals in a comp plan. The goals can be added to, but there is a bare minimum required. Committee discussed its approach to goals and policies. Deferring to the 2009 plan wording was suggested and generally approved as long as it fulfills the state requirements and is still relevant. The goals and policies of most chapters still need a lot of work. It was decided that Jessica C. and Eric will work on these and then each chapter lead will commit to reviewing their section before the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS/ NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting will be February 15.

At that time there will be another look at the Future Land Use chapter and the Goals and Policies for most chapters. Members are asked to review their assigned chapter's Goals and Policies before the meeting.

The subcommittee on the public meetings needs to meet again and possibly recruit another group leader. Eric said he will organize a meeting with Jessica G., Greg L., Elaine and himself.

Paula moved the meeting be adjourned, Greg D. seconded. Meeting adjourned at 7:29 p.m.

Minutes prepared and submitted by Holly Rahmlow