

**Bar Harbor Age-Friendly Committee**  
**March 16, 2022**  
**Zoom Meeting**

Present: Allie Bodge, Susanne Hopkins, Nancy Howland, Andrea Lepcio (arr 3:50), Terry Wagner  
Excused: Sharon Linscott

The meeting was called to order by Chair Susanne Hopkins at 3 PM.

Susanne reported on a Town Council planning retreat she attended. Kevin Sutherland, the new town manager, facilitated. The retreat was attended by town committee and board chairs, council members and town department heads. Housing, infrastructure needs, and tourism were identified as top three priorities. The town has created a position to facilitate needed better communication among town entities and with the community.

Of note was a report on the sidewalk study currently underway. This has been an interest of our group. We would like to hear more about this initiative and understand if there is anything we can do to contribute. Susanne will inquire on this as follow up on the plan task. She will also reach out to Kevin in the future for his thoughts on how our group can support the town.

We discussed the concept of a column for the Islander. It seems that a monthly article would be a good starting commitment. It would make sense to have a plan for several months of topics lined up. Some topics could include Island Connections, Open Table's expansion, Bar Harbor history, winter prep. Andrea joined late with apologies for a misunderstanding about the meeting time. She reported that the Islander would love to have us sponsor a column of 900 words. A single topic could span multiple articles. They are open to any frequency. Andrea has developed a list of topic ideas that she will send to the group for review and discussion next meeting.

MDI Hospital would like to use the AARP printer for additional copies of the resource guide.

Continuing the plan review, we decided to defer a decision on the Aging and Loss program until an in-person meeting is feasible.

Regarding the item to poll the voters regarding transportation, we discussed options other than polling place survey and will delete this particular item from the plan. Decided to defer discussion until Sharon is present as IC may be planning something similar.

We may want to do more on volunteerism in the next iteration of the resource guide. This could also be an article.

On Housing, Allie reports she now has a full staff so more promotion of the Comfortable Home program may be feasible. In general, Allie is hearing the biggest housing need for seniors is in skilled nursing openings. Otherwise, the major gap is for middle income people. The Housing Authority waiting list is not very long right now, but the income requirements are strict. Birch Bay is unaffordable to many folks.

Allie would like to have us consider an action item that addresses the current mental health crisis.

Overall, we felt one active action item for each major category would make sense. We will approach next discussion and do some brainstorming with this in mind.

Minutes of Feb 2022 meeting were accepted by unanimous vote after Andrea joined.

There was no public comment.

The next meeting will be on Wed, April 20 at 3:00 PM via Zoom.

The meeting was adjourned at 4 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Wagner  
Secretary