

Bar Harbor Age-Friendly Committee
Apr. 21, 2021
Zoom Meeting

Present: Teresa Wagner, Jan Varnum, Doreen Willett, Allie Nolan, Susanne Hopkins and guest, Jill Goldthwait.

Doreen Willett, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:00 PM. She asked for approval of the minutes from Mar. 17, 2021. Allie made a motion to approve; Susanne seconded. Unanimous. The financial report is the same as it was last month, requiring no action.

Doreen welcomed Jill Goldthwait, Town Council member, to our meeting. She came to discuss how the Town could support the Age-Friendly initiative; we decided to brainstorm ideas. Jill mentioned that in her work she sees overlapping of committee work and wondered how we might make connections with other groups.

Suggestions included:

- to have discussions with representatives of other Town committees.
- sharing on google.docs.
- a visitor from a committee could attend a meeting of the Town Council, alternating one to another.
- a regular committee update provided to the Town Council.
- a Town Council member as a liaison or contact person, even email.
- a committee “summit” for the town.
- an informational column in the MDIslander, one committee weekly, updating.

Jill shared that she is participating on the Climate Task Force. They are working on a booklet to offer citizens basic ideas that can be done in our normal lives. It will offer concise information and contacts. Jill also asked about winterization and if we had discussed that; that issue seems to overlap both groups. Allie talked about the MDI Housing grant that is providing some low cost-high impact projects, but there is not enough money to go around.

Doreen commented that she hoped our resource guide would be completed and ready to publish by the end of May. At that time, perhaps we can offer a feature article in the MDIslander.

We discussed the fact that minutes had not been posted on the Town website. They are not published until after they have been approved. Doreen thanked Jill for attending and sharing ideas with our committee. Her input was greatly appreciated.

Doreen then shared with the group that she is stepping down from as Chair and committee member of the Bar Harbor Age-Friendly Committee and then leaving her position at Island Connections at the end of the year. She will be in transition until that time. We all expressed regrets about her leaving, but wished her the very best!

We discussed last details about the resource guide. We decided churches should go under “Faith Communities.” Doreen will continue to work on the consistency of formatting and the table of contents, and will email us when she is ready for us to review the draft. Her goal is to have it done by May 19, our next meeting, and ready to send to AARP.

Susanne made a motion to adjourn at 4:15 PM; Terry seconded. It was unanimous. The next meeting will be on May 19, 2021, on Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,
Jan Varnum
Secretary