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DATE: March 13, 2023  
TIME: 12:21 PM

**Age-Friendly Action Committee (AFAC)  
Meeting Minutes: February 9, 2023**

Attendees-Committee Members:

- Judy Morrison, Chair, COA rep
- Timothy Flood, Disability Task Force/Belmont SEPAC rep
- Betsy Lipton, Housing rep
- May Forkin, Library rep
- Lt Kristin Daley, BPD, Public Safety rep
- (not appointed), resident rep
- Amy Checkoway, School Committee rep
- Susan Polit, Resident
- Paul Cowling, Recreation Department rep
- Dana Bickelmon, Ex-Officio, non-voting

Other Attendees:

- Andrea Paschal, COA Board
- Jackie Dobson, Accessibility rep

Agenda

1. Call to Order: 11:10am
2. Comments from town residents: none
3. Approve Past Meeting Minutes: Unanimous vote.
4. Judy Morrison provided an overview of the presentation provided to the select board. The Select board is happy with our progress.
5. Housing Subcommittee:
  - a. Judy Morrison discussed the "HomeFit Guide" the subcommittee has been working on.
    - i. AARP provided a \$2000 grant for the guide.
      1. From a previous discussion with Megan Remick, any remaining funds are going to be "donated" to the High School Senior Class
    - ii. Belmont High Students assisted in formatting the guide.
    - iii. A post card mailing was discussed as a means to advertise the guide availability.
  - b. Susan Polit discussed accessory dwelling units (ADU's).
    - i. They are still formulating a plan for improving zoning to allow ADU's.
      1. Several surrounding communities have had success and those roadmaps will be utilized to guide their process for Belmont, with an emphasis on Wellesley's.
    - ii. Jackie Dobson mentioned that Betsy brought a lot of additional information to the subcommittee meeting that will also be helpful.
    - iii. Judy Morrison discussed working on additional partnerships for the April subcommittee meeting.
6. Transportation and Walkability Subcommittee:
  - a. Judy Morrison stated this subcommittee has really been taken on by the Council on Aging Board (COA).
    - i. Alan and Marjorie are working hard on parking permits.
    - ii. Rideshare partners are still needed.
    - iii. The subcommittee is working on partnering with safe routes to schools to discuss

opportunities.

- b. Also discussed is the first meeting at Beech Street Center to discuss the community path on March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023. The subcommittee feels this is important to make sure the seniors feel part of the process.
- c. The walkability part of the subcommittee-initiated discussions back in December. They would like to partner with AARP for a walkability audit and connect with Tim to discuss how this may tie into disability needs.
  - i. There has also been some discussion with the town about GIS mapping availability. It sounds promising that we have access to the software but need to work out bringing someone onto the committee that has experience with the software.

7. Outdoor Spaces Subcommittee:

- a. Paul Cowing discussed the usual process for outdoor space (particularly for parks) improvements and what the recreations department's role is and is not.
- b. About 99% of the improvements are paid by Community Preservation Fund (CPC) funding which received about a 30% match from the state on approved projects.
  - i. It was noted that all projects have originated through small group (such as "friends of" groups) advocacy.
  - ii. Community input and support is absolutely needed for successful CPC approval of funding.
    - 1. It was noted that the Underwood Park project was not approved because CPC didn't feel there was enough community support.
- c. Although recreation approves the plans DPW controls the overall project process
- d. Funding and feasibility stage is the point where Age Friendly Action Committee should work to be involved. The recreation Department will be discussing a mechanism for implementing this for all future projects submitted.
- e. Judy Morrison asked what are the current active projects?
  - i. Town Field-Construction
  - ii. Payson Park- Construction
  - iii. Grove Street- Design (basketball/baseball/drainage only)
- f. Paul Cowing would like to see Support for Chenery as it will be transitioned into an upper elementary over the next couple years. But notes it has been from the surrounding/adjacent community members.
- g. Tim discussed his research into defining "age friendly" with respect to outdoor spaces. The outdoor spaces subcommittee is going to discuss his findings in their next meeting.

8. Communications Subcommittee:

- a. May Forkin discussed Dana Bickelmon met with the town IT department. It was discussed that an age friendly action committee member to be part of the website renewal committee.
  - i. The major point of discussion was having a singular location for all updating of age friendly and COA to be centrally located for simplicity. One location for changes
  - ii.
- b. The library now goes to the senior center twice monthly to offer help/instruction with technology, particularly for the "libby App" starting March 16<sup>th</sup>.

9. New Business: None

10. Next Meeting (Date & Time): March 9<sup>th</sup> at 11am.

Meeting adjourned at 11:59am

Respectfully submitted,  
Timothy Flood