

**Age-Friendly Action Committee (AFAC)  
Meeting Minutes: September 8, 2022**

**RECEIVED  
TOWN CLERK  
BELMONT, MA**

DATE: November 14, 2022  
TIME: 8:59 AM

Meeting called to order at 11:10am

In Attendance

Judith Morrison, Susan Polit, Timothy Flood, Kristin Daley, Hildy Dvorak, Judy Singler

Members of the Community Present Dana Bickelman Council on Aging Director, and Peter Struzziero Belmont Public Library Director

- 1) Susan Moved approval of minutes from July 13, 2022 & August 10, 2022, Kristin seconded, approved by unanimous consent.
- 2) We are working on trying to get a new member to represent the housing interest, more to come on that.
- 3) Judith commented that some members are interested in having these meetings in the evening sometimes. Some members were open, but the town employees present commented that night meetings are difficult given other work and family obligations.
- 4) We will be keeping the meetings scheduled for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday at 11:00am
- 5) **Comments for the good of the order:**

Near the beginning of the meeting Peter requested to be appointed to our group in an official capacity representing the Belmont Public Library, in addition to Librarian May Forkin.

Peter discussed two library related events; Library Card Sign Up Month / One Book One Belmont Public

Minute taker will rotate beginning next month with Tim. Tim is also taking minutes this month with support from Peter in his volunteer capacity.

**6) Housing**

Judy M. discussed a guide is being created to advise seniors on aging in place with info online from the State, from AARP, and other sources. A priority is being placed on identifying the required permitting needed for various efforts taken by seniors. It will be a multidepartment effort in Belmont. This process is ongoing. Judy Morrison comments that AARP advised us that a grant is possible to help assist with some printing and marketing needs, pamphlets etc. Belmont Printing has turned in a quote. They are hopeful that this guide will be completed by the end of the year

Acting COA Director Bickelman commented on a home renovation program with Lowes Hardware, the conversation is just beginning there, but it sounds promising. More to come. A link was shared with the committee explaining the program

<https://www.lowes.com/l/shop/accessible-home-resources-and-guides>

Judy Singler also discussed accessory dwelling units and discussed possibilities of her replacement on the committee. Susan thanks Judy for all the support and effort.

Kristin mentioned that she's gotten more specific guidance on permitting when making home alterations, after a little more research Kristin feels she'll be comfortable supplying the correct data for the guide. While the work will be completed in the winter, a spring reveal might get more traction with the general public.

### **Transportation**

Members of this subcommittee were absent, but Judy M. reports they are doing great. They are looking to relaunch the volunteer driver program. Plans are being made now. We do have funding from the Friends of the COA for medical rides, so that's great too. A letter is being sent out looking for more volunteers for the giving of medical rides to help offset costs for seniors.

Secondly, The Parking Permit Program was approved. We will look to advertise this more proudly and share this story line. Kristin reported that a Belmont Police Sergeant who lives in Watertown reported on the parking pass program for seniors in Watertown, so that's how this conversation began in Belmont. Kristin reported it to all, but shared that without Sergeant Garabedian the idea may not have appeared in Belmont at this time. It's an idea that we plan to share with other communities to help spread the word for seniors everywhere. The select board had a discussion on the matter and ultimately approved unanimously.

Dana reports that she thinks the number of passes given out so far exceeds 200 passes at present.

The League of women voters is looking into the possibility of a new shuttle service and has contacted Senator Brownsberger. The next step is to investigate possible funding sources. We'll hope to write an eventual grant to have a survey done in the future to discern the needs. More to come on this.

The transportation group is doing more and more with various other groups in town, and it's clear that as the months move on we are gaining credibility among other committees, which is great.

On the community path front, we've partnered with the this group, and have been invited to an October meeting to provide feedback on the Community Path plans to advocate for age friendly features, and walkability.

Judy mentioned the idea of a Volunteer open house, which is a long term goal. We are also looking for a French Student to help launch a French group too.

We are gathering data and looking to prioritize more things for walkability, notably repairing sidewalks. Judy stressed to check out the materials sent out for today's meeting which had a lot of useful data and spreadsheets.

### **Outdoor Spaces**

Tim had no updates this month, but reports that new members are still working to schedule some time to work together on this front. Existing spaces in town were commented on, with opportunities for expansion. Tim will be discussing more information about inclusive playgrounds and potential signage

for commerce areas next meeting once he has organized it. Overall, Tim suggests that in October he's hopeful that there will be increased work in this area.

### **Communication**

Peter showed us the Burbio Town Wide Calendar available now on the top of the Belmont Public Library website. Users can go to his website, find the Burbio link, go to Burbio, create a free account, and then add all the various event calendars available in Belmont from the Library, Town, Schools, Rec, etc., creating their very own personalized Town Wide Calendar....for free.

He's been given the go ahead by Town Administrator Garvin to reach out the Town Website Committee to state formally our interest in having an appointee from our group join their effort to make sure that age friendly ideas are worked into any updating of town websites. It will be up to them to have a member of our group appointed if that's something they'd like to do. Peter hopes to bring back an answer to this at the next meeting.

He's also continuing the search for a grant funded consultant to work with us all, but so far, the search has not been fruitful

At this point the meeting was brought to a close.

Susan moved adjournment, seconded by Kristin, all in favor, meeting adjourned.