

DATE: November 1, 2021
TIME: 3:06 PM

**AGE-Friendly Belmont Meeting
11-24-20**

Attendees: Nava Niv-Vogel, Bev Freeman, Judy Singler, Susan Polit, Peter Struzziero, Heidi Barberio, Kristin Daley, Mackenzie Kewley, Alice Melnikoff, Timothy Flood

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 11:04 am.

Meeting Minutes The meeting minutes as presented were approved unanimously with only Bev Freeman abstaining.

Discussion of Action Plan Reports

The transportation action plan Judy commented that we should include work on sidewalk repair to the plan. She offered to write up language for this new piece to the plan and would present this by the next meeting. It may also be possible to explore state grants, through AARP or other sources. Bev offered to keep the Council in the loop for any grants in this regard. It's also possible to tap into the annual fund that ride sharing companies contribute to the town for this purpose. She also stated that in her capacity as member of the Housing Trust she has learned that the McLean Housing developers considered offering a shuttle bus for residents. She suggested that it might be good to include language in the action plan stating that the Age Friendly effort would raise the Town's awareness and advocate with the town for any possible shuttle services that might be provided by developers, as they seek approval for their plans. This may be possible if a developer provides funding for the town's shuttle bus. Judy Singler asks whether we should pursue a shuttle service and possibly include in a general plan? Such a shuttle service would also alleviate traffic.

The communications improvement plan: The consensus of the Council was that it is ok that this action plan is not as long and with as many goals as the others. Judy suggested that we consider adding outreach to the business community as was done in the communications portion Age Friendly Dedham Action Plan. Kristin stated that the Belmont Center Business Association would be very cooperative in this effort. This initiative will be added to the communications plan that Nava will revise. Since Alice M., in her capacity as liaison with the school community, is vital to the communications plan, she and Nava will talk off-line for her feedback. Alice still needs to review current plan before making suggestions.

Housing sub-committee report: Judy informed the group that the Planning Board now has included ADUs in their goals for Town Meeting.

It was the consensus of the Council that Nava reach out to the Planning Board1. To let them know of the Council's support of their effort and 2. Find ways to collaborate on bringing ADUs to Belmont. and let them know of the Council's support of their effort and to find ways to collaborate on bringing ADUS to Belmont..

Apart from this long range project that is quite substantive the discussion turned to shorter term goal of providing a step by step guide to help residents with process of making home modifications. The guide

would include information on the permitting process, how to safely hire contractors and other tips to achieve the desired outcome.

The Council discussed a new goal not currently in the housing sub-committee action plan. In light of need to help residents with home modification process the idea was brought up to have the Community Development Department offer staffing assistance and guide people through the home modification process. Although CD staffing is tight the Council agreed that this is an important goal and that counseling prior to work on a home modification plan might prevent issues that CD may have to address after the job is improperly done.

Action Plan for Outdoor Spaces—Nava did not provide an action plan for this domain because the Council did not discuss this in depth aside from applying for grant to include age friendly aspects to the Town Field renovation plan.. It was the consensus of the Council that working on walking paths is a separate matter to sidewalks and should be included in this domain and not transportation. The best example cited of a successful walking path was the Grove St. path.

Tim introduced the idea of instituting age friendly features into outdoor space projects through a by-law. That would take care of all potential projects in the future. The consensus of the Council was that this would be very valuable to the Town. Judy volunteered to see what other towns have done in this respect. It is also understood that the definition of “outdoor spaces” and age friendly features” need to be provided before any by-law could be considered in this regard.

Nava will draft an outdoor spaces action plan based on this meeting’s discussion.

Before concluding the meeting Nava reminded the Council that the entire action plan is due at the end of the month, and that the work of the Council will end after several more meetings. She expressed hope that members of this Council would join the committee that will be formed to implement the action plan.

The meeting adjourned at 11:49 pm.

Bev Freeman

Secretary