

Swampscott For All Ages
MINUTES: May 22 2019
Senior Center at Swampscott High School
Prepared by Interim Secretary Margaret Somer

Attendees: Guest: Patricia Zaido (Salem For All Ages). By conference call: Jennifer Nisbet and Jessica Wistran. Present: Kevin Breen, Ross DiPietro, Michelle Fine, Marzie Galazka, Doreen Hodgkin, Ian Holland, Beverly Kahn, Linda Lengyel, Susan Lerner, Matt MacDonald, Trisha Malphrus, Joan McCormack, Robert Powell, Margaret Somer, Matt Strauss, Susan Sussman, Heidi Whear.

MINUTES:

The Committee approved the April minutes.

Stakeholder interviews and focus groups are scheduled - with public and private stakeholders, and those under and over 55.

The Committee/ UMass Boston needs assessment survey has had more than 1,500 responses, both online and by mail, including to those under 55. This is 32% out of our town of 14,600!

PATRICIA ZAIDO, co-chair and founder of the Salem For All Ages Committee presented the history of their group. She noted:
Keys to success:

- the involvement of Salem City Hall and the Mayor. The Mayor's Chief of Staff is the other co-chair; the Community Development Dept. writes grant proposals; the city does some of the Action Plan projects such as a shuttle bus, and Forest River Park renovations; the city provided original consultant funds; etc.
- Structure, continuity and written plans - gets the Committee's goals included in the city (and other groups') plans; assists with grant writing; shows the group is committed to specifics.
- Collaboration with other groups
- Their Action Plans mainly came from the written comments on the public survey (500 responded). Projects were assigned to Task Forces (like Swampscott's Domain subcommittees).
- Working on Age Friendly Business Certificates
- Applied to AARP for grant to start project to encourage elders to rent rooms to college students.

Insights:

- Issues like death and dementia scare people - keeps people from joining the Salem Committee.

- Dominant issues for elders are isolation/depression and communication (about activities, etc.)
- 91% of elders surveyed use the Internet.

Other Swampscott Business:

A discussion ensued about possibly requesting assistive devices at town and community events.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.