

Swampscott for All Ages Committee  
Swampscott Senior Center, 200 Essex St., Swampscott Mass. 01907  
Co-Chairs: Robert Powell and Heidi Whear  
Secretary: Mary Webster  
Date: 23 January 2019  
7 pm to 9 pm

Attending: Doreen Hodgkin, Lois Hurwitz, Marla Gay, Warren Sawyer, Matt Strauss, Jenn Nisbett, Kevin Breen, Peter McNerney, Paul Crowley, Matt McDonald, Barry Flynn, Bill Quinn, Mary Webster, Ross DiPietro, Michelle Fine, Jeanne Leger, Bill Travascio, Heidi Whear, and Robert Powell

Co-Chairs Robert Powell and Heidi Whear welcomed all newly appointed committee members. Selectman Naomi Dreeben and Town Manager Sean Fitzgerald thanked co-chairs and all committee members for being part of an opportunity to meet the future needs of our growing aged population.

For the title of Secretary Mary Webster expressed interest, she was nominated by Jenn Nisbet and seconded by Matt Strauss, all were in favor.

A variety of different items were provided / discussed:

1. By 2020 1 in 3 residents of Swampscott will be over the age of 60
2. The Age Friendly Committee will review the recent Master Plan developed in 2018
3. At the most recent Town Meeting, Town Meeting Members allocated \$30,000 toward this Committee for Fiscal Year Ending 6/30/19
4. Marblehead has been invited to join us for forums, etc.
5. This is an open Committee in that new members are welcome to join at any time, specifically individuals with areas of expertise to fill in gaps of current members, for example an attorney who could educate seniors on DNRs, Living Wills, Health Care Proxy, etc.
6. Slack is an App that could be useful for our Committee for communicating and posting documents, information will be sent out to members to join
7. All Committee members must be sworn in with Town Clerk, Sue Duplin, if you have not already done so please do
8. One of the Committees final priorities may not be to build new space just know how to utilize what we have
9. 40R Transit Oriented Districts will be one of the areas reviewed (as also part of the most recent Master Plan); design standards are set by the Planning Board. Commercial shops / stores are needed however those owners / managers need residents in those areas to patronize; it's almost a catch-22

UMass Role:

1. UMass will perform a Needs Assessment which will be followed by an Action Plan including the following:
  - a. Vision
  - b. Mission

- c. Goals
- 2. This is a 9 month process, cost of \$29,000; they will:
  - a. create a demographic profile
  - b. present at 2 community forums (1 during the day, the other an evening) providing residents with a detailed understanding of the committee
  - c. suggest and process a 4-page survey with 25 questions, will be accessed online or via paper; UMass will charge \$9,000 for a mailing (see Survey Discussion below)
  - d. identify 8 domains that will make our community as age friendly as possible; eventually these 8 domains will become sub-committees
- 10. They will conduct stakeholder interviews. Interviewees will be chosen by the committee members looking for individuals who would give a good perspective on the needs of our aged community; the same questions would be asked during each interview
- 11. There will be several Focus Groups, our committee will decide what subjects will be covered; UMass suggest 5 Focus Groups
- 12. The Action Plan will prioritize list by importance (low, medium, high), cost and time

#### Survey Discussion

- 1. Mail to all households or just those with resident over 50 years old?
- 2. What if more than one person over the age of 50 lives in the same home?
- 3. Will questions be checked boxes or write in?
- 4. Who will mail it out? Are recipients more inclined to answer if it comes from the Town or from UMass?
- 5. Paul Crowley, of GLSS, will speak with his team of evaluators to see if they would be able to help us with creating a survey and evaluating it

#### Roles / Responsibilities of the Committee members

- 1. Survey: how do we get completed – emailing, mailing, knocking on doors
- 2. Forum: calling people to come to attend
- 3. Focus Groups: calling people to attend
- 4. Create liaisons with other committees – town, faith based, political – Bob will send list of organizations for all to review and take ownership of, can be more than one committee member per organization
  - a. Attend meetings
  - b. Explain what we are doing
  - c. Find out what they are doing
- 5. Review Age Friendly Reports which Bob will send out to all committee members
- 6. Research Age Friendly reports generated by other town for ideas and best practices
- 7. Visit other senior centers, interview seniors and note their options

Late March there will be a Kick-off Forum

Meeting adjourned at approximately 9 pm