

Swampscott for All Ages Committee  
Minutes from June 26, 2019  
Swampscott Senior Center  
Prepared by Tri-Chair Heidi Whear

Attendees: Deb Newman, Heidi Whear, Jenn Nesbit, Larry Lavine, Marla Gay, Marzie Galazka, Matt MacDonald, Matt Strauss, Peter McNerney, Robert Powell, Ross DiPietro, Sue Sussman, Trish Malphrus, Brian Flynn

1. Correction to May Minutes – need to add Sue Sussman to list of attendees. Minutes were approved with this correction.
2. Robert Powell announced that Marzie Galazka, Swampscott's Director of Community and Economic Development, was invited to join the Co-Chairs of the Swampscott for All Ages committee to create a Tri-Chair. Similar to Salem's committee structure, the inclusion of Marzie in the committee's leadership strengthens the connection between the committee and the town administration. We are awaiting formal approval from Sean Fitzgerald and the Board of Selectman.
3. Update from UMass included:
  - a. Stakeholder interviews were in progress.
  - b. Regional comparisons were also being conducted with peer communities.
  - c. Completed report expected in September.
4. Planning Age Friendly Community Day – perhaps October 13 or 20.
  - a. UMass to come out to share results.
  - b. Invite Charlie Baker
  - c. A gathering at the High school on a Sunday afternoon similar to the Community Forum is anticipated.
5. Bob and Heidi reported on the Conference on Reframing Aging put on by AARP and Tufts Foundation. Of note from the conference:
  - a. "Reframing Aging" is about putting a positive spin on the demographic shift rather than using words like "Silver Tsunami".
  - b. Communities were speaking very positively about including dementia friendly initiatives while developing the aging friendly programs.
  - c. Sharing of numerous resources
6. There was a discussion about regionalization of programs to work between towns, noting that this can serve our smaller communities very well.
7. Mission Statement Discussion – Two statements drafted by Margaret Somer and Peter McNerney were presented and discussed.
  - a. "All Ages" was liked
  - b. Discussion of the importance of people aging place for the rest of their lives. Creating options for people to stay
  - c. Willingness of towns to build, share housing, zoning
8. Matt Strauss is looking into a Tufts mini grant.

9. AARP also has grant opportunities, Marzie will investigate.
10. Jen Nisbet volunteered to develop notes from minutes and agendas to include on the Town Website.
11. Focus Groups – consensus that Caitlin and Rebecca did a great job.
  - a. A few ideas about “right sizing” and granny pods in back yards were discussed.
  - b. Senior Center isn’t able to take people with physical disabilities since the lift is broken.
12. Reminder that we will not be having meetings in July and August since we are waiting to learn the results of the needs assessment. All members were asked to keep in touch with SLACK – read up on other communities and their action plans, develop ideas and to THINK BIG.
13. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm. The next meeting will be September 25, 2019 at 7:00 pm.