

**Swampscott for All Ages Committee
Swampscott Senior Center
Meeting Minutes, October 18, 2023**

Attendees: Alyce Deveau, Jenn Nisbet, Sue Sussman, Pat Hines, Heidi Whear (no quorum)

Absent: Kevin Breen, Marzie Galazka, Joan McCormack, Bill Quinn, Michele Audet, Margaret Somer, Claire Regan, Bob Powell

Meeting called to order at 7:05 p.m.

Received by Town Clerk
November 16, 2023 8:42am

Vote to approve minutes from September 6, 2023 meeting deferred until next meeting because there wasn't a quorum.

Domain Updates

Housing:

AARP Public Policy Institute has come out with their overall livability scores for towns and cities in Massachusetts. Swampscott earned an overall livability index score of 59 which is in the top half of communities in the US and is on par with communities in our area. Swampscott did most poorly in the housing matrix because it had no policies in the areas of: state and local inclusion laws, housing trust funds, housing protections, foreclosure prevention, accessory dwelling unit support and plans to create age-friendly communities. H. Whear will work with M. Galazka on updating the matrix to up Swampscott's overall score.

Transportation:

H. Whear met with Marblehead's Council on Aging director, Lisa Hooper, on the possibility of a coordinated fund request to Rep Jenny Armini to support a pilot project: a partnership with Lyft to provide subsidized rides for seniors and disabled individuals. Marblehead's Council on Aging declined the opportunity.

Focus of van usage will shift from pandemic use of three days a week for medical visits to post-pandemic use of two days/week for medical visits and two days/week for senior center visits.

Outdoor Space and Buildings:

H. Whear presented a slide show outlining goals for a multigenerational community center. Presently pursuing funding from the town for \$100,000 to hire an outside consultant to conduct a feasibility study.

J. Nesbit using AARP guidelines assessed the walkability around Town Hall, Linscott Park and Monument Ave. She is in the process of doing a walkability study with Swampscott's Community and Economic Development department

Social Participation:

H. Whear presented a PBS documentary on Seaglass Village featuring C. Regan. The documentary noted the Village concept is growing both domestically and internationally.

Community and Health Services:

S. Sussman and J. McCormick met to begin the planning for the 2024 Caregivers conference. This year's focus will be on an individual's personal journey navigating aging. Proposed dates for the conference are March 16 or 23. A broader conference subcommittee will be established and meet at the end of October.

People living with dementia will be able to participate in Opening Minds Through Art (OMA), a new, six-week program led by Siobhan McDonald. Each participant will be paired with a trained high school volunteer who provides guidance during the art making process.

Respect and Inclusion:

Dementia training is continuing for town employees.

Other Business:

Next meeting: November 15, 2023, Swampscott Senior Center

Meeting Adjourn: 8:18 p.m.