

Senior Citizens Advisory Commission

Meeting Minutes: January 6, 2015 **DRAFT**

Jordan Conference Room, 11:00 am

Attendees: Brett Seekins, William Marshall, Bruce Nelson, Barbara Page, Patricia Bredenberg

Excused: June O'Neill, Elizabeth Baillie

Visitor: Andy Bernstein, Jim Pierce, and Sherri Benner, ITN (Independent Transportation Network)

Staff: Matthew Sturgis

1. The meeting was called to order at 11:00 am.
2. The minutes of 12/2/14 and 12/16/14 were reviewed. Motion to approve minutes as presented by Mr. Marshall, second by Dr. Nelson. Approved unanimously.
3. Chair Seekins welcomed Mr. Bernstein, Mr. Pierce and Ms. Benner. He provided a synopsis of the work performed thus far by the Commission, particularly identifying transportation as a concern as well as communication, health care and other important issues / challenges faced by seniors.
 - a. Mr. Bernstein is the Chairman of the ITN Board. ITN has existed for 20 years. It was founded by Catherine Freund while she was a student at the Muskie School of Public Policy. ITN provides dignified transport for seniors and the visually impaired.
 - b. Mr. Bernstein provided an information packet that described the services provided by ITN, including their rate sheet, application for driver opportunities, and other information regarding programming.
 - c. ITN asks volunteers to provide 1 hour per week, using their own vehicle to provide rides to clients. ITN has their own vehicles as well, as often automobiles are donated by clients. They are ALWAYS looking for volunteer drivers.
 - d. ITN provides its services 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. They have two full time dispatchers. They have a history of satisfied, repeat customers.
 - e. This past year the John T Gorman foundation provided ITN a \$25,000 grant.
 - f. ITN does provide services to Cape Elizabeth residents. Between 1995 and 2015 there have been 116 Cape residents as members.
 - g. Ms. Page stated that she has used the service, and it is a pleasure. She questioned about the ability to receive a scholarship for services. Mr. Bernstein replied that they still have the scholarships, but they are limited.
 - h. Mr. Bernstein stated that 60 percent of funding comes from members and fees, 40 percent from other sources. They are planning on applying to the United Way, but it is a challenge to raise funds.

- i. Ms. Page asked if a person donates their car, what is the process? Mr. Bernstein replied that a donated car will result in driver credits to the donor based on the Blue Book value of the car.
 - j. Ms. Benner stated that children can arrange this for their parents by donating as well or becoming members.
 - k. Mr. Marshall asked how one can find ITN? Mr. Bernstein stated that the phone book and internet help, they are very accessible.
 - l. Mr. Marshall has a friend who could really use the service and is currently paying a lot, and could really use their help. Mr. Bernstein said they would be ready to help.
 - m. Ms. Benner stated their service is door to door, arm to arm to help their clients. They help them the whole way. Ms. Page stated she finds the service as great, and the drivers very accommodating.
 - n. Chair Seekins asked what the future goals of ITN are?
 - o. Mr. Bernstein stated they would like to improve brand recognition and awareness. They would also like to become a United Way member.
 - p. Dr. Nelson asked if there are other ITN's across the country? Mr. Bernstein replied yes, but Maine is the most active at providing rides, with the next closest Boston.
 - q. Mr. Marshall asked if they received any Federal funding? Mr. Bernstein answered no, they do not.
 - r. The Commission thanked Mr. Bernstein, Mr. Pierce, and Ms. Benner for coming and providing this very useful information.
4. William Marshall had a handout from Home Health Visiting Nurses from Maine Health. This is a service available for seniors and is paid for by Medicare.
 5. There was a discussion regarding the dogs on leashes on land trust land letter that was recently in the Cape Courier. The general consensus of the Commission was that this was not part of the charge of the Commission. They did feel that responsibility is important, but the Commission has no public position on this issue.
 6. Chair Seekins stated that a letter was sent to the Courier related to being aware of the seniors around us all. The Courier is on its holiday hiatus.
 7. Mr. Marshall would like to see Federal funds pursued to fund a senior center in Cape Elizabeth. We need some parallel planning to take place and get some energy going. Representative Pingree could be a great resource. Councilor Walsh would also be a great resource with the Council.

Dr. Nelson thinks it may be best to pursue this with South Portland as a partner. It may be best to have a partner and not be dependent on the schools, Town, or other entities.

7. The meeting adjourned at 1 pm.