

Cape Elizabeth Senior Citizens Advisory Commission

Preliminary Observations

A report to the Cape Elizabeth Town Council

November 6, 2014

Respectfully submitted, Brett C. Seekins, Chairman

Progress Report

- Have been meeting since April 10, 2014
- 12 Different speakers presented to the Commission on Senior services and needs.
- Three public input sessions held.
- Senior Health Expo - participant
- Senior survey performed at Health Expo
- Examined Cape Elizabeth Demographic profile
- Established contact with local churches
- Informed Maine DHHS and CDC offices of our work

Initial Findings

- Four Core Issues Facing Cape Elizabeth Senior Population
 - Transportation
 - Communication
 - Social Opportunities
 - Affordable Housing / Taxation

Transportation

- Transportation Needs were consistently raised as an issue.
 - Need for functional / daily living activity
 - Need for specific events / appointment
 - Need for social / community events
 - Need for access to health care
- MAJOR CONCERN:** Lack of transportation leads to **ISOLATION** leading to other preventable problems

Communication

- Need a central location for information, referrals, services
 - Senior Guide
 - Senior hot line: myseniorcenter.com
 - Staffed senior center / physical location for a senior center

MAJOR CONCERN: Lack of communication or understanding of where information is kept leads to confusion and barriers to timely assistance.

Social Opportunities / Affordable Housing and Taxation

- Social opportunities are limited
 - Need for more varied programming / activities
 - Potential for a senior center with activities
 - Need for neighborhood activities / outreach
 - Inter-faith outreach / connection
 - Affordable housing is a concern
 - Property taxes
 - Health care concerns
- MAJOR CONCERN: Connectivity to the Town could be lost and cost of living, utilities, taxes could force residents to move from community

Recommendations

- Allow the Senior Citizens Advisory Commission to finish its task
- Establish the Senior Citizens Advisory Commission as a standing committee
- Consider hiring / seeking a volunteer Senior Programming / Senior Issues employee
- Distribute a sponsored quarterly household Senior Guide detailing essential services, activities and important phone numbers
- Enhance the Town Website with a SENIOR TAB that contains related specific content, the Senior Guide and SCAC notes
- Establish a pre-recorded Senior Hotline that mimics information contained on the enhanced SENIOR TAB Town Website from our neighbors that do not have access to computers
- Establish a designated SENIOR SPACE within the town proper in existing infrastructure to support Senior Programming / Senior Issues
- Purchase a dedicated Town 14 Passenger Van to restore Transportation to Seniors for functional, daily living and specific event purposes.

Commission Members

- Brett Seekins, Chairman
- Elizabeth Baillie
- Patricia Bredenberg
- William Marshall
- Bruce Nelson
- June O'Neill
- Barbara Page

Matthew Sturgis, Town Liaison to CESCAC

- Thank you for your assistance and leadership. The CESCAC and those with which we aim to serve, are in your debt.