



Hallowell Age-Friendly Committee
Notes to Meeting July 11, 2018
9:30 – 11:45AM City Council Chambers

Next Meeting July 18, 2018 9:00AM-10:00AM

Attending: Mike Frett, Sara Grant, Lyn Gray, Stephanie Hanner, Bob McIntire, Diane Polky, Maggie Warren and Mary Ann Zagaria.
Guests Sandy Audet and Jackie Marten

Action Items Appear in BOLD.

Notes for the June 13, 2018 meeting were approved by consensus.

Addition of new members to the committee – Mike said that we could add members to the committee as we thought appropriate. Sandy and Jackie, residents of the Cotton Mill expressed interest in joining and were welcomed to the group. **Bob will get copies of *The Maine Guide* for them and provide additional material.** Sandy does not have access to a computer and will need hard copies of materials.

Maggie handed out buttons she made sporting the Age-Friendly Hallowell service mark. She rocks! She also handed out copies of the Capital Area Outside Guide. **Maggie will get copies for our booth.**

Sticker choice – The group chose to use the blue color on the sticker. Maggie made buttons for us all. They looked very smart. Thanks, Maggie! We decided to add the web address to the design. Brian Ayotte subsequently provided three solutions. The group chose this design.



Bob will forward a copy of the artwork to Sara and Patricia Oh.

Department of Agriculture, Rural Housing Service Housing Preservation Grant application submitted for consideration by City Manager Nate Rudy – The committee discussed the opportunity at length. We talked about possible grant participants. Diane noted that assessing services are provided through a contract and that the Code Enforcement Officer was only part time and busy. She thought our #1 focus should be our Action Plan. It was decided by consensus that we couldn't pursue the grant at this time, but that the information generated in creating our Action Plan would provide a good foundation for considering future opportunities.

Old Hallowell Day (OHD) – Adaptive Tool Display – See Sign Up at the end of Notes

Bob picked up the Adaptive Tools for Everyday Living display from Jane Chandler. We have use of the display until August 1st. We discussed other opportunities for using the display in addition to Old Hallowell Day. Maggie suggested a program at the library. Note - Kim McLaughlin, the librarian at the Hubbard offered July 25th as a possible program date.

Sandy suggested contacting Lee Morrill, the Activities Director at the Cotton Mill. She also said that communication is a big problem. She often finds out about activities she might have been interested in after the event has happened. She also doesn't have a computer and so can't access information on line.

Bob noted Dawn Gordon, the Life Enrichment Manager at Granite Hill Estates would be a good contact for a program. He will call her.

Bike-powered Blender Exhibit Booth setup and staffing assignments. Maggie has the bicycle-powered blender ready to go. She has a tent and will bring the ingredients for the smoothies. **Sara will pick up materials at the AARP office including extra copies of the Adaptive Toolkit handout.**

Bob will email a schedule to people to sign up for attending the booth at Old Hallowell Day.

AARP Livability Index – Hallowell's Score – The committee discussed City Manager Nate Rudy's concerns about Hallowell's Livability Index scores. As it sits now there is no way to change the scores. Data is from outdated or incomplete sources. While AARP promotes the Livability Index, chances are that few are using the Index. Bob previously contacted Patricia Oh to share our concerns. The group decided that since we can't make changes to move on to Action Planning.

Action Plan Next Steps – Plan Template

The committee began discussing the next steps in creating our action plan. We have yet to develop Mission and Vision statements.

Sara suggested that we begin adding activities we have already undertaken and accomplished in the template. **Bob will create and share a Google doc for the Action Plan and Google Spreadsheets for each of the eight Domains of Livability.**

Sara said that we should consider developing short, medium and long-term goals.

Diane mentioned that the City is about mid-term in its 10-year comprehensive plan. The City Council will have to appropriate money for the planning process in the next year or two. Sara said it is important to understand how the Age-Friendly Plan fits into the comprehensive plan. A link to the 2010 Comprehensive Plan can be found on the City's home page <https://hallowell.govoffice.com/> Scroll down to the link to the PDF file.

Mary Ann wanted to underscore that our work should be viewed as a component of the City's marketing plan. Diane explained that present marketing is focused on links to web-based information and promotion. Diane noted that the real estate agents are active in promoting the City and should be aware of our committee's work.

Mike said the Council was aware of our efforts most recently as related to the Stevens Commons and Central Commons development efforts.

One of the important Domains of Livability is Transportation. Jim Wood, the Transportation Director of KVCAP, joined the group to review the products and services offered by the Kennebec Explorer and other transportation services. He handed out copies of the Public Bus Schedule for Augusta and Waterville. Ridership has been increasing steadily. In 2011 there were 44,000 riders growing to 103,000 riders in 2017.

He explained that in addition to the regularly scheduled bus service KVCAP also offers rides to medical appointments using both KVCAP vans and private carriers. Maggie asked about bike racks. Jim responded that all the buses have bike racks on the front. The busses have integrated ramps to aid riders with mobility issues and the buses can kneel to lower the enter way. Drivers are required to stop and open the doors at all regular bus stop. There can be deviation from regular routes with advance notice. Jackie ask about stops for dialysis patients. Jim explained that the medical center is a big supporter of the service. Jackie wanted to know about requirements for parcels. Jim said it is the airline rule. You can carry on what fits in your seat space.

Jim also said that KVCAP is willing to help "neighbor-driving-neighbor" efforts by providing training materials and background checks, but the organization doesn't have the capacity to help with scheduling. Two of the most challenging problems the agency faces are recruiting volunteers and aging employees. He himself has worked for the organization for 44 years! There are 60 drivers and 90% of them are retired from other positions. **Jim will get copies of the bus schedule for distribution at our OHD booth.**

The committee will meet again next on Wednesday July 18 at 9:00AM to continue planning work.

Sign up for the Old Hallowell Day Booth – Please contact Maggie or Bob if you can take a shift.

Set-up 8:30AM – Maggie & Bob

9:00AM -10:00AM – Need two people – Bob and Maggie need to leave for the parade at 9:15AM

10:00AM – 11:00 AM – Parade duty. Sit and watch! 2 people needed.

11:00AM – 12:00PM Maggie will be back to blend up smoothies until 2:00PM, but will surely need a break! One or two people needed.

12:00PM – 1:00PM – Two people needed.

1:00PM – 2:00PM - Two people needed.