

**Senior Advisory Committee  
Tuesday, May 20, 2014  
Town Hall, Old Town Road  
9:30 a.m.**

Present: Co-Chairs Gail Pierce and Sandra Kelly, Members - Susie Wright, Deborah Martin, Betsey DeMaggio, Ann Henault, Dorothy Graham and Sandra Hopf. Also present were Senior Coordinator Anna Christina Rogers and for the recording of minutes, Millie McGinnes. Commission member Linda Spak was absent.

The meeting was called to order by Co-Chair Gail Pierce at 9:30 a.m.

**1. Approve Minutes of Meeting, April 18, 2014**

Ms. Henault moved to approve the minutes of the April 18, 2014 meeting. The motion was seconded by Ms. Graham and carried.

Ayes 8 (Pierce, Wright, DeMaggio, Martin, Graham, Hopf, Henault, Kelly)  
Nays 0                      Absent 1 (Spak)

**2. Input from Senior Coordinator Anna Christina Rogers**

Senior Coordinator Anna Christina Rogers was present and stated that she was excited to begin working and was looking for input and feedback from the committee members.

**3. Discuss and act on the intern's proposal**

Ms. Pierce explained that she is in contact with two potential summer interns to work on a senior population needs assessment and other projects. She noted that they were planning a meeting in early June.

**4. Act on needs assessment of the Senior population**

A needs assessment was briefly discussed. The committee will review the previous survey completed by the Senior Advisory Committee in 2008.

**5. Update and act if necessary on U3A progress**

Ms. Pierce reported that the U3A program organizers met and they are working on publicizing the program. There may be a future request for funds to cover printing costs.

The Board decided to reorder the agenda and wait to address item #6 Status Update of Notify Now when Town Manager Nancy Dodge can join the meeting

**7. Discuss and act on "Keeping in touch" / "One on One" program(s)**

Ms. Pierce explained that she would like to implement a Keeping in Touch program that would assign a buddy to a senior. The buddy would check in regularly with the senior and act as their advocate as needed. Ms. Graham and Ms. DeMaggio are working on a list of potential program members.

**8. Present paragraph developed for the Town Comprehensive Plan**

It was noted that a paragraph for the Town Comprehensive Plan regarding seniors was drafted and submitted to the Planning Board. The paragraph will be reviewed at the next meeting.

**9. Introduce and act on need to form a subcommittee addressing needs of the handicapped**

Ms. Kelly stated that she has done some preliminary research on handicap requirements, but does not have a report at this time. The Committee decided that a subcommittee for this item was not necessary.

Town Manager Nancy Dodge joined the meeting and the committee returned to the earlier item #6 on the agenda.

**6. Status update of “Notify Now”**

Town Manager Nancy Dodge reported that the Town was going forward with the Notify Now program. The following methods were suggested to sign up residents: send out notification in the power bills and on the Bulletin Board and add a link to the Town website. Discussion ensued regarding what alerts would be sent out through the Notify Now program and by whom. Ms. Dodge stated that she hoped to have it up and running by August. The committee offered their help with signing people up and compiling data.

**10. Discuss communication with members of the Medical Center Board May 14, 2014**

Ms. Pierce reported that a couple of members met with some representatives of the staff and board of the Medical Center to discuss meeting the needs of seniors. She noted that they are all willing to work together to come up with a list of those in need and determine how to proceed.

**11. Investigate State Funding for Home Health Aides as well as position of town social welfare**

Discussion ensued regarding obtaining funding for a state nurse or welfare director. Ms. Kelly will look into the current Welfare Director’s role and funding.

**12. Act on The Recreation Boards request for an alternate**

It was noted that the Recreation Board was looking for a member of the Senior Advisory Committee to serve on their board as an alternate member. Ms. Wright volunteered to serve.

**13. Update on activities:**

- a. **BIBB** - Ms. Kelly noted that the Block Island Bulletin Board currently has 432 members. Discussion ensued regarding what type of messages are considered commercial vs. non-commercial.
- b. **Soup Group** – Soup Group will move to Tuesday beginning May 27<sup>th</sup>.
- c. **Lunch Bunch** – The last day of Lunch Bunch before the summer break is today. It has been a successful year.
- d. **Chair Aerobics** – Chair Aerobics will continue through the summer.

**Next meeting – June 17, 2014 at 9:30 a.m.**

At 10:55 a.m. a motion was made by Ms. Graham and seconded by Ms. Martin to adjourn. The motion was approved unanimously.