

# Age-Friendly Chelmsford Implementation Committee Meeting Minutes

## January 25, 2023

**Members Attending:** Fred Brusseau, Debi Siriani, Colin Spence, Lisa Marrone, John Bowles, Steve Callaghan, Connie Donahue, Jen Melanson, Lesley Kimball

**Members Absent:** None

**Others Attending:** Paul Cohen, April Hunt, Regina Jackson, Louise Meyers, Cindy Pernet

**Meeting called to order at 9:04 a.m. by Fred Brusseau.**

### Progress Report from Domains

Outdoor Spaces and Buildings Domain, Steve Callahan

- Steve went to Community Preservation to ask for funding to replace outdated and non-compliant playground equipment at the Highland Soccer Field. It is just a swing set, a dome, and a tire swing at this point. It will be going to the Town Meeting for approval.

Civic Participation and Employment Domain, Lisa Marrone

- Lisa and Fred B. had a Zoom meeting regarding Civic Engagement with AARP. The wish of a lifetime is similar to the Wish Project for seniors. She might be interested in doing a Valentines for Seniors program. She learned about the AARP Age Friendly “Employer Pledge” for Businesses with Age Friendly practices. She is studying the Boston Age Strong model, using an AF Ambassador (this would be Lisa) to help businesses in town.
- Deb S. said that she met with the Chelmsford Business Association recently and introduced the idea of AF Business model. She and Lisa M. can meet to discuss what AF list makes sense for Chelmsford. We could promote AF businesses in various ways.
- Lisa is trying to get a Bathroom Grab Bar project together to help seniors at home get help from local handymen/women. She has \$1000 from Chelmsford Community Foundation but has been experiencing many obstacles. She will work with Deb S. to see if they can make it happen in the next month, but otherwise might need to return the funds.
- Lisa has been working with MassHire and has arranged for them to have hours at Chelmsford Town Hall once per month on the last Tuesday of the month from 12-7pm in Room 206. Chelmsford is the 1<sup>st</sup> community to partner with MassHire in this way, and the hope is that it will be more accessible to Chelmsford residents.

Social Participation, Respect, and Inclusion Domain, Debra Siriani

- Deb S. met with a representative from the Northeast ARC. They discussed ways to assist their clients with disabilities to be more active in the community. Deb has invited them to come out for a tour of the Senior Center to find volunteer and engagement opportunities and go to the Table of Plenty.

Social Participation, Respect, and Inclusion Domain, April Hunt

- April will be training more CPD officers soon for Hoarding Disorder Training and then all will be done with the training. They have created a QR code to assist them with uploading pictures and forms.
- She will also be doing a presentation to a few local libraries on Train the Trainer.
- The presentation for the public tonight has 83 people signed up.
- Taryn and Amy from the Chelmsford Board of Health will be starting their own Buried In Treasures workshop series in March, which April will assist with at first.
- Tewksbury and Bedford are now starting a workshop series for Buried In Treasures. Acton might soon.
- Jen Melanson handed out 2 HD car kits to each town in the HD network.

#### Community Support and Health Services Domain, Deputy Colin Spence

- Coffee with a Cop at the Senior Center April 5. Looking to do internet safety for Seniors in June.
- The SafetyNet Program had a great success in the past month, and they were able to find a lost person within 45 minutes with the help of the new system. 11 out of 15 available have been given out. An outreach effort has been made through CTM to let people know that they are not actively tracked through the device, but it is turned on as needed. Tyngsboro is also providing this program. It will be highlighted in the February Senior Center newsletter.

#### Communication and Information Domain, Lesley Kimball

- The AF website is live! Lesley will find ways to promote it.
- The challenge is to keep it up to date and add events that are happening. Deb S. offered to send the Age Friendly Corner from the Messenger to Lesley every month.

#### Transportation Domain, Jen Melanson

- The Chelmsford Ride program is currently Beta Testing to work out the kinks, and they have a few drivers so far. February 7<sup>th</sup> there will be a Public Session about Chelmsford Ride

#### Transportation Domain, Jen Melanson and John Bowles

- Cindy P., Jen M. And John B. had a meeting with their Kennebunkport counterpart. Their town is now doubling rides every month and say that it is not unusual for it to take a while for the program to catch hold.

#### Fred Brusseau

NMCOG will be having an Envision 2050 focus group at the Senior Center. Jen M. agreed to go.

Deb S. will be a guest panelist for a webinar with AARP in the coming month. In a practice session for the webinar, AARP representative called age-friendly Chelmsford “The Gold Standard”.

#### **Status of efforts for Community Outreach**

- Per Lesley K. the Age-Friendly webpage is ready to go live.
- Age-Friendly CTM Show is highlighting the library this month with guest Lesley K.
- Fred B. will be presenting the FY22 Age-Friendly Progress Report to the Select Board March 13<sup>th</sup>
- Cindy Pernet of Chelmsford Ride will do some outreach tables at Library and other places in the community.
- Jen M. mentioned a goal from the Greater Lowell Health Alliance that mentioned the older members of BIPOC community not feeling very safe in Chelmsford. She spoke with a Representative from the DEI Committee and will work with Deb S. at the Senior Center to develop some programming to make the Senior Center more welcoming to the BIPOC community

**Discussion on Select Board Civic Involvement Goal**

- Fred asked members to respond to questions from the Select Board survey. Fred and Deb both agreed that the support from the Town for this committee has been exemplary.

Fred reminded members to take the conflict of interest training by the end of March.

**Approval of the 12/28/2022 minutes**

- Motion to approve- Jen, Second, Lisa. Approved unanimously.

**Next meeting:02/22/2023, 9:00 a.m., Zoom meeting.**

**Motion to adjourn by LisaM. Seconded by Jen M. voted unanimously.**

**Meeting adjourned at 9:41 a.m.**