

Age-Friendly Chelmsford Implementation Committee Meeting Minutes

May 31st, 2023

Members Attending: Fred Brusseau, Deb Siriani, Colin Spence, Lisa Marrone, Jen Melanson, Lesley Kimball, John Bowles

Members Absent: None

Others Attending: Paul Cohen, Regina Jackson, Louise Myers, April Hunt, Jeannine Madden, Christine Clancy, Steve Callaghan, Megan O'Neil

Meeting called to order at 9:01 by Fred Brusseau

Progress Report from Domains

Christine Clancy

- Christine started off the meeting by giving a pavement and sidewalk master plan update, with a specific focus on the sidewalks.
- The presentation gives a breakdown of how the roads and sidewalks are rated with examples of good and poor ratings, the money that was spent on re-construction the roads and sidewalks in previous years, the plan this year and the next two years, as well as the estimated costs of it.
- A big part of the plan is the development of the Section 504 Transition Plan which states you must identify all curb ramps, pedestrian ramps, and wheelchair ramps around town. This plan will help identify what needs to be brought up to compliance.
- When asked what the committee could do to help support Christine and the DWP, Christine stated a letter of support from the committee would be a big help if one is ever needed.
- Christine mentioned the top priority for the sidewalk plan has been focused on the schools, but the senior center is considered a high usage area and is a priority as well.
- John asked if Christine could explain their plan to include cyclists and Christine mentioned there is a discussion for cyclist inclusion but there is concern for restraints due to the width of some of the roads.
- Fred asked Christine to correlate their master plan with the town's 2020/2030 master plan and Christine stated that have not gotten to that step yet because they focus on a three-to-five-year plan due to variability, but it would be a good thing to work towards over time.

Community Supports Domain, April Hunt

- As of June 20th, the next meeting for the hoarding disorder group resource network, all 19 people will have completed their nine hours of training for safety day which allows them to go into a heavily hoarded house and bring it up to safety code.
- There are currently two Buried in Treasure classes in Chelmsford, one in Bedford and one in Tewkesbury. Within the next month, Westford, Acton, and Dracut should be up and running for Buried in Treasure workshops.
- In July, April will be recording a hoarding disorder information video for the public with CTV that the Resource Network is hoping to put up on their (yet to be created) website.
- All of Chelmsford and Westford first responders have been trained in hoarding disorder with Tewksbury PD to hopefully be done within the next month.

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- Trauma informed care classes are being looked into for the members of the hoarding task force to help further care for trauma induced people with hoarding disorder.

Social Participation, Respect and Inclusion Domain, Debra Siriani

- The senior center is having a workshop on modern-day pronouns in early June. The goal is to help seniors have a better understanding of the use of modern-day pronouns.
- The senior center worked with Parker Middle School in receiving thank you cards for the Veteran's Breakfast. Debi also reached out to the teachers to see if they are interested in doing some inter-generational things for the fall.
- Debi is in contact with an art and dementia specialist to have caregiver dementia art classes.
- The center will be represented at the Chelmsford Lions Country Fair on July 3rd by a "Happy to Chat" bench. There will be quotes about isolation around the bench and there will be conversation-starter cards to help guide conversations between attendees. The goal is to bring awareness to the growing situation of isolation and loneliness.
- In relation to the respect and inclusion domain, Jen Melanson and the CCA are sponsoring and hosting a drag show at the CCA on June 10th.

Transportation Domain, Jen Melanson

- The Gardens for Good have been planted and are up and running. So far, they have received good feedback.
- The Chelmsford Ride service is well above average, with 17 rides total in its first month of operation.
- This program has come in under budget so Jen will be giving the select board an update by the end of the summer to inform them of how the ride service is doing and to get the board to approve the other half of the funding they have allotted to keep the ride service going and self-sufficient.

Civic Engagement and Employment Domain, Lisa Marrone

- Lisa Marrone has been invited as a special guest of the AARP Massachusetts State Office to participate in a National Virtual Workshop in September.
- Lisa, in partnership with Mass Hire, has set up a recruitment event at Town Hall for July 25th, to help the Chelmsford Public Schools fill their vacancies.
- Lisa's workforce development guide has been completed but not published. The hope is this guide will help workplaces to include a more mature workforce in their environment.
- June 21st, 2023 is the committee social at the Java Room.
- Lisa is still trying to chase down a guest for the age friendly talk show.

Community Support and Health Services Domain, Deputy Colin Spence

- Deputy Spence has a quote for the new safety net bracelets which he will talk to the town manager about. There are currently two available.

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Head of Transportation Domain, John Bowles

- The Chelmsford Ride program would like to increase the number of drivers they have by arranging an outreach program. The outreach they have currently is working well, there is just some concerns about the comprehension of the program to potential drivers.
- John mentioned an area of growth for clients is to find a way to increase cross chatter among the communities.
- Chelmsford Grow a Row is starting out. Brooks Industries has built 6 raised beds to devote to Chelmsford Grow a Row. With this, Jen and John have discussed plans for potentially expanding the program.

Status of Efforts for Community Outreach

- Lisa and Debi have been trying to get in touch with AgeSpan but have been unsuccessful so they will be continuing to try to get in touch with AgeSpan.

Jeannine Madden mentioned how she was looking for a way to involve herself in the community after moving back to Chelmsford. She was involved in an arts program called Spark while she lived in Colorado and hopes Chelmsford could create a program similar to that. Lesley stated the library would be interested in partnering with her for something like that.

John Bowles thinks it is important for the committee to address the caregivers 45-65 years old and give them a formal program to help. Debi mentioned there is a caregiver's support group at the Senior Center and they can find a way to connect it to the Chelmsford Ride Program.

Approval of the 4/26/2023 minutes

- John Bowles made a correction to the April minutes; he does not have access to the boy scouts.
- Motion to approve edited minutes – Jen Melanson. Seconded by Lisa Marrone. Approved unanimously.

Next Meeting: June 28th, 2023 at 9am, Remote Meeting

Motion to adjourn by Jen Melanson. Seconded by John Bowles. Voted unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 10:11am.