

Age-Friendly Chelmsford Implementation Committee Meeting Minutes
June 28th, 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, Cindy Pernet, Dani Koutsoufis, Lauren Cochran, Megan O'Neil

Meeting called to order at 9:02 by Fred Brusseau

Progress Report from Domains

Social Participation, Respect and Inclusion Domain, Debra Siriani

- For the second year in a row, the Chinese Bible Study School kids will be volunteering for a week in July.
- The Chelmsford summer school program has been in touch with Debi about starting the program up again where the kids partner with the center and work on inter-generational stuff together.
- Debi connected with Stephanie, the community connections persons from CHS, and they plan on discussing intergeneration programming in the fall.
- The sensory garden is coming along great, some finishing touches just need to be added before releasing pictures.
- Vinfen would like to continue their relationship with the center and there is talk of potential staff training if staff are interested.
- With the help of Phill Stanway and the boy scouts, the raised garden beds have been coming along, as well as the age friendly walkway that is around the garden beds.
- Lastly, on July 3rd, the center will be holding their chat bench at the country fair.

Communication and Information Domain, Lesley Kimball

- The Safety net presentation was to the website along with Debi's sensory garden video and Lisa's photo of the ribbon cutting from Summer Place.
- There is also a link posted from an advisory on social connection, loneliness, and isolation. It addresses all age communities and is very insightful.
- A digital literacy grant was approved for \$6,00 and the hope is to use some of that money to buy portable equipment and host some classes around the community for people that may not be able to make it to the library.
- Jen mentioned it would assist home bound residents as well by allowing them to access technology they may not have access to otherwise.
- Going off of Jen's mention of homebound residents that may not have access to technology, Lesley has been looking at other age friendly communities and towns and there is a lot of mention of print materials. It is a challenge from a money, environmental and distribution standpoint but it would help assist those residents.

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Head of Transportation Domain, John Bowles

- There is a need for more volunteers and more outreach for the ride program. To bounce off Lesly's point, John thinks incorporating print material would be a great help.
- The Grow a Row program has more land this year than last year, and new sources of vegetables. John and Jen have been chatting about how to reach more seniors, especially the ones in the senior housing.
- To bounce off Lesly's point, John and Jen think incorporating print material would be a great source of outreach for the ride program.
- John mentioned having a bunch of vegetable seedlings from one of the members in the grow a row program and offered to donate to anyone looking for some. Debi stated that the center is more than happy to offer a place for the plants and allow people access to them.

Transportation Domain, Jen Melanson

- The Gardens for Good has been growing like a jungle, so they have started distributing produce. Lettuce was brought to the Table of Plenty, while the rest of the lettuce, along with some zucchini and summer squash, will be brought to the food pantry.

Community Support and Health Services Domain, Chief Colin Spence

- The police department is ordering 5 more Safety Net bracelets. They currently have one left and 14 people in the program.
- The clinician is now full time with the police department. There is a new behavioral health unit consisting of 5 different police departments in the area.

Civic Engagement and Employment Domain, Lisa Marrone

- Steve Callaghan was a guest on Lisa and Debi's talk show. They talked about outdoor spaces and the importance of being able to get outside.
- Due to CTM being under construction, the month of July will be skipped but the Board of Health is scheduled for August. They plan on talking about summertime safety and other types of preventions for summer safety.
- Lisa wants to thank everyone who went to the Java Room social. The Java Room would like to do more and have been following up with her.
- The ribbon cutting at Summer Place was nice and went very well.
- The employers have already started signing up for the AgeStrong job fair. It is October 4th in the gym at Town Hall.
- Chelmsford Public Schools will be having a recruitment event in room 205 and 206 at town hall on July 25th to hopefully fill some positions in the schools.

Status of Efforts for Community Outreach

- Lesley has asked for photos for the library website.
- Fred did the read out from the Municipal Open House and from the Housing Advisory Board.

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- Each of the domain leads is asked to send Jen a brief description by August 1st of projects completed this year so she can take those and compile them into one single input for the committee. It is important to note that most, if not all, of the projects accomplished in FY22 are continuing in FY23 and beyond.

Approval of the 5/31/2023 minutes

- Fred made a correction to the attendance of the meeting- Connie was absent, Steve was in attendance.
- Motion to approve edited minutes by Deb Siriani. Seconded by Lisa. Approved unanimously.

Next Meeting: July 26th, 2023 at 9am, remote meeting.

Motion to adjourn by Jen Melanson. Seconded by Lisa Marrone. Approved Unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 9:43am