DRAFT

Age Friendly Georgetown

Hybrid Business Meeting

January 8, 2024

**Present -**  Bonnie Trigg, Jessie Graham, Karen MacGillivary, Michele Melanson, Jim Peavey, Rick Cliffe, Sheila McCandless

**Zoomers** - Elaine Varney, J.P. Schneider, Lisa Reece, Ole Jaeger, Peggy Kapisovsky, Roger Bogart, Sandy Jaeger

**Minutes –** Novemberminutes were previously distributed and approved. Peggy didn’t remember receiving them so Jim will resend them.

**Emergency Contact System –** Participation in this program has increased, There are now 10 on the ‘to contact’ list, and more volunteers were added to touch bases with these people. All went well during the last storm. Three residents opted to move to another house after 3 days of no power, and a generator was being prepped to maintain a freezer full of food but luckily the power returned and it wasn’t needed. Jim has a list of volunteer drivers so the contact person should call him if there is a need to relocate anyone.

**Housing Forum** – A forum was held on November 21 with 28 invited attendees. Housing issues were discussed and four teams were formed to study housing issues. This project is being conducted under the auspices of Age-Friendly Georgetown. The four teams are:

1. **Aging in Place** - Members of this group will meet with Habitat for Humanity & Bath Housing to explore ways to expand and improve safety in homes i.e. install grab bars, ramps, walkways. Being under their liability umbrella is a possibility. Both agencies are very interested in providing expanded support in Georgetown.
2. **Town Ordinances –**Pam Gunnell, Kathy Gravino, and Jessie Graham will co-chair this group. They will work with the Planning Board to review the ordinances that affect housing construction and remodeling and see if any may be obstacles to ideas that develop concerning housing. Beginning July 1, 2024, the Planning Board must be compliant with LD 2003. This bill requires Maine cities and towns to address affordable housing, with a central focus on Accessory Dwelling Units. Enforcement of all town ordinances was discussed, as our Codes Enforcement Officer has a very large challenge to address all the issues in our town and others that he covers.
3. **Housing Options** – David Trigg is leading this team with support of Sarah Kecskemethy. They will explore the feasibility of several options including but not limited to apartments, modular homes, small/tiny homes, Auxiliary Dwelling Units (ADU), cluster and congregate housing, and more.
4. **Foundations** – Susie Wren and Dave Polito are working to organize this effort. Their work started with a meeting with Deb Keller, Executive Director of Bath Housing, who is well versed in the myriad issues around housing availability. They have also discussed the issues with Alex Ziparro of the Island Institute, which is working with many island and coastal towns on the widespread challenges.

The need for affordable housing in Georgetown is real. Short-term rentals that involve large numbers could overtax the groundwater resources and septic systems and put a strain on the Transfer Station. Removing homes from long-term rental opportunities make it harder for families to move into town. The Housing Options team will look at what other towns have done. There are lots of options being implemented or investigated and we should take advantage of solutions that might benefit our town.

## Technology Training –Part II of ‘Cutting the Cord’ – how to replace cable and satellite TV, as well as telephone services, with internet options will be presented at the Town Office on Wed. January 10. The goal is to move the training sessions back to GHS and provide a class once a month. If you have any topics you’d like to see offered, let Jim know.

## Community Calendar – Rick, Jim, and Karen are working to make a calendar of things of interest town wide available on the Age-Friendly Website. Scott Weller, an IT specialist, is on board to smooth out the kinks. This calendar will be updated as needed and will be separate from the Town Meetings Calendar on the Town Website.

## Local Contractors Update/Website – Plans are moving forward to update the list of contractors on the Age-Friendly Website. Karen volunteered to help Jim validate what is there now and update as needed. Out of town contractors will be added to the list if recommended as a reputable company by residents who have used their services. This section of our website was created to feature local contractors and we will continue to identify those that are based in Georgetown. However, due to the dearth of a variety of tradespeople, such as plumbers, electricians, and carpenters, we are expanding to include providers from out of town that are known to work in Georgetown.

## *Updates*

## Friends of Reid State Park (FRSP)

## The shoveling brigade was busy on Monday, Jan. 8 as the snowblower wasn’t working. When the task was completed, Jim found a replacement for the snowblower. Then the Big Storm came and washed away what was left, along with big sections of the dunes and damaging many things at the Park.

## The 2024 Art Show may be held in the old concession building. Jim is looking for a ‘point of contact’ person (Event Planner) to oversee the project this coming year.

## Plans to become a 501c3 are on hold. There need to be 4 officers and 5 directors for this to happen and not enough volunteers came forward. Advantages of 501c3 are the group would be eligible for Grant funding and donations would be tax deductible. The group will be able to continue the support work to the park staff and address the incorporation issue as the effort matures.

## A checking account for FRSP has been set up and it now has an EIN (Tax ID number)

 **AFG Financial Status**

* Bank Account - $5,542.73
* $948.46 that was being held for the FRSP was transferred to their newly created checking account.

**New Business**

* Adopt a Senior Program was suggested by Dorsey Harrison

 Similar to SEARCH where Michele Melanson is Program Coordinator

 A companionship program for elderly residents and may involve making daily

 phone calls, visiting, playing cards, running errands, driving to appointments.

* Home care providers in G’town – Two are currently listed on our website and we are looking to add others. This will become a more essential service as more Georgetowners age and need additional care and support.
* The question of having an Age-Friendly Van (possibly wheelchair accessible) was raised. This could be used for weekly trips to Bath, or transporting seniors and disabled individuals to Town events. It was noted the school van is used only certain hours. It was also noted that there may be grant programs available or car dealers who might partner on this. There are several issues, such as insurance and driver qualifications that need to be addressed. This topic was tabled for further discussion – meanwhile Lisa is thinking.
* Jim reported that the next Tide article mostly deals with the Attainable Housing Initiative.

Meeting Adjourned @ 5:00

Next meeting is March 11, 2024, at 4pm. It will be a hybrid meeting, held at Town Office.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen MacGillivary