

Aging in Place Task Force
Minutes of meeting January 12, 2017 at Shutesbury Town Hall

In attendance: Susan Rice, Sylvia Weatherby (visitor from Wendell), Thom Masterton, Paula Lyons, Carla Palmer, Maggie Houghton, Nancy Spittle, Nina Compagnon, Sally Fairfield (note taker).

Meeting opened at 12:10 pm led by Susan Rice.

Minutes of the December 8, 2016 meeting were read and approved.

Discussion of the upcoming visit to Northampton Neighbors (N.N.) on January 18, 2017 at the Northampton Senior Center. Paula L., Susan R. and either David D. or Thom M. will attend. N.N. would like to have members come with questions. Paula wrote down question as they came up in the meeting that we thought N.N might be able to answer.

A discussion followed about when we might be ready to become full members of Village to Village (V to V), when to incorporate and file for 501(c)3 non-profit status and come up with an organizational/business plan. Thom suggested that we needed to move more slowly. It was unanimously agreed that we want to continue as an opportunity member of VtoV, for the next six months, the same status we now have. Carla will let David D. know so that he can get a check for the membership fee.

There was discussion of the need for a Board of Directors whose task would be to become knowledgeable about the V to V toolkit and give direction as to how we need to proceed. No action was taken on this.

We have a name and vision statement, voted on at the Dec. 8, 2016 meeting:

Village Neighbors: empowering aging adults to lead independent and engaged lives at home and in their communities.

The difference between a vision and a mission statement is that the vision is what we want to do and the mission is how we plan to accomplish it.

A discussion ensued about what kind of a group we want to be: all-volunteer, part-time coordinator, hub and spoke, where we come under the umbrella of another VtoV group.

There was discussion of doing a four-town survey to inform people of what we want to accomplish and to use the survey as publicity for what we are doing. There was no agreement on this and the discussion led to the need for community building and outreach to share information and to find who is interested in serving as a volunteer. We agreed that each town needs to figure out the best way to do this for itself. The Shutesbury members would like to do a meal at the AC and make a presentation during the meal.

There was a lot of interest expressed in doing something in the immediate future. For example, figuring out how to provide rides for errands and grocery shopping that are not covered by the Med. Ride program. People in all the towns need help with transportation.

A number of people have already volunteered to help to help with driving, organization and internet technology. It was suggested that one of the organization volunteers be asked to come to the next meeting.

There was discussion of connecting with groups in the larger community, such as LifePath, Highland Valley and other health care providers as a way of outreach. David W. has worked with with LifePath. Sally will contact him and see if together they can visit to find ways they might help us.

Although it was not discussed at the meeting because I forgot to mention it, Linda Scott said it would be helpful if we could start a little later on the days that she has to prepare for the Conservation Committee meeting the same evening. I will find out more information and bring to the next meeting on February 9, 12-1:30 pm. The March meeting is also on the 9th at the same time.