

AFAC MEETING MINUTES FOR FEBRUARY 15TH, 2024

Attendees: Judy Morrison, Jeff Liberty, Susan Polit, May Forkin, and Tim Flood

DATE: March 14, 2024
TIME: 3:07 PM

The meeting was called to order at 11:11AM.

Review of meeting minutes was determined to be approved the following meeting.

Review of draft for Select Board meeting draft:

The Select Board meeting is scheduled for February 26th. We would like the outdoor space guidelines to be approved. The following checklist is what we are asking for approval from the Select Board with a 5 prong approach.

CHECKLIST OF AGE-FRIENDLY FEATURES - OUTDOOR SPACES FOR SAFETY AND SECURITY

- √ Safe Sidewalks - well-maintained, cleared, non-slip and accessible.
- √ Sidewalks are continuous, with low curbs that accommodate wheelchairs and scooters.
- √ Accessible benches - (at appropriate height, with arms), located along sidewalks, or paths and spaced at regular intervals.
- √ Snow removal - prompt and considerate of seniors, young families
- √ Allows seniors/ young families to get in and out of cars
- √ Keep major intersections and curb sides clear of snow and ice for seniors, wheelchairs or strollers
- √ Streets and Parking lots are well-maintained, well lit and cleared of snow and ice.
- √ Shade and Rain shelters - available to support pedestrians.
- √ Public washrooms – accessible, can accommodate those with a variety of disabilities* and are conveniently located with proper signage.

A 5-prong approach:

Select Board Approve Recommended Guidelines

Communicate the specific age friendly elements with senior citizens, School Committee (safe routes to school) town officials, town committees and employees
Partner across town to Incorporate age friendly features in existing/new processes, when possible, via guidelines.

Establish Safe Walkways for priority maintenance – partner with Safe Routes to School to include Senior walkways as well.

Approving programs:

Add a AFAC rep on the recreation commission

Sponsor AFAC – Outdoor projects – e.g. walking circle sidewalk around town field in front of Senior Center.

Discussion of updates for the select board meeting:

A. Housing-Event, ADU

On April 30th, the **Beech Street Center** will be sponsoring an **Age in Place Resource Fair from 4-7 pm.**

The Age Friendly Action Committee is hosting this event at the Beech Street Center to build awareness among those caring for aging parents and seniors of all the resources available to help them age well in place.

We will have 20-30 vendors with tables and handouts, free give aways etc. The fair will focus on 4 areas:

- Home fit
- Health
- Engagement
- FUN!

ADU- Additional Dwelling Units. Chris Ryan, will write up by-laws for the fall based on work done in local areas by Arlington, Lexington, Newton, and Winchester. The town planning board is taking this up.

B. Outdoor Spaces

We went over the checklist and guidelines. Tim indicated that although town businesses and departments follow guidelines, special accommodations are not always put into practice because if the business can't afford certain accommodations they aren't required to make them. It is very important to keep functionality in mind when designing outdoor spaces. Not only do people need to be able to get to the playgrounds and other facilities, but they need to be able to use them and we need to recommend that the spaces are functional for those that need to use them.

Community Comments

We want to make sure the functionality is addressed in the outdoor spaces, and that all spaces considered to be age friendly in addition to featuring the checklist.

Confirm Meeting Schedule

Next meeting March 14th at 11:00

Meeting adjourned at 12:07pm