

**Draft**  
**Mayor's Senior Advisory Committee**  
**April 29, 2019, 1:30 pm**  
**Saratoga Springs Recreation Center (Interim City Hall)**  
**15 Vanderbilt Avenue, Saratoga Springs, 12866**

Attended by members: Cliff Ammon, Susan Brennan, Celeste Caruso, Nancy Cameron, Phil Diamond, Tammy D'Ercole, Jared Littleboy, Chuck Meagher, Jay Portnoy, Barb Thomas, Anne Trainor, Mayor Meg Kelly.

Also present: Ed Cubanski (Red Cross), Denise Yannaci (OFA)

Excused / Absent: Ann Sheppard, Nedra Stimpfle, Dee Sarno

1:35 pm Meeting called to order by Barb Thomas.

Dee Sarno requested and received a leave of absence so that she can care for her husband.

#### Introductions / Attendance

Review of minutes from March committee meeting:

Phil objected to the use of the term "low income" to describe housing, since it can trigger negative responses and a NIMBY mindset.

Denise from OFA explained the official meaning of some of the terms used for different types of "affordable" housing. We decided we would use the term "income qualified" instead.

Minutes were accepted with that change. (Phil, Jay)

There was some discussion of the need to have income qualified dwellings required to remain at that designation for a specified (long) time.

Barb directs discussion of 2019–20 Goals and Action Plan.

Motion made to accept the revised Committee Description and Goals (attached) for posting on the webpage. (Chuck, Jared) Passed unanimously. The Action Plan was slightly revised and adopted unanimously (Chuck, Jared). The Action Plan (attached) will not be posted on the webpage, but will guide the committee's actions.

Everyone who had attended agreed that the final "neighborhood meeting" at Academy for Lifelong Learning had been successful. (Report attached)

#### **Subcommittee Reports:**

- Celeste & Jared reported on the April 11, Complete Streets Meeting (attached).
- Barb / Celeste report on a meeting they attended 4/11 on co-housing options. (Attached).
- Barb reported on the Clergy Advisory Committee that she attended (attached).

Meg gave updates on:

- Geysers Trail (clearing underway) as well as addition of left turning lanes to be added to the Geysers Road & Rte 50 intersection.
- Henry Street may have a trial as a one-way street. Updates to come.

- Her desire to bring activities into the Rec Center during the weekdays. She introduced
- John Hirliman (Rec Department Director) Rec Commission meets last Tuesday of every month. Arts & Rec committee should attend.
- There will be an increase in trolley service during racing season from 2 trolleys to 3. There will also be trolleys running for all Live Nation events.

Meg announced a new fire chief, Joe Dolan, which prompted Ed Cubanski to introduce himself. Ed discussed and explained what the Red Cross does and highlighted a free smoke alarm program that they have. How to apply, and contact info to volunteer.

Reminders to have subcommittees connect with and observe their groups, before our next meeting.

Motion to adjourn at 2:40

**Next meeting: Monday, June 24th 1:30 pm  
15 Vanderbilt Ave, Saratoga Springs**

## **Att #1 Committee Description and Goals**

# **Senior Advisory Committee**

### **About the Committee**

The Saratoga Springs Senior Advisory Committee is a non-political committee, appointed by the Mayor, representing the senior citizens of Saratoga Springs.

Our mission is to have a positive impact on the City of Saratoga Springs and its senior citizens as we work together to accomplish the following:

- Elicit senior concerns, raise awareness, report back to the Mayor, and advocate for solutions to the needs of seniors
- Increase access and mobility for seniors within an age friendly community

- Enhance opportunities for seniors to participate fully in the life of the community
- Advocate for support services for seniors
- Attend meetings of organizations that are of significance to senior issues
- To serve as a liaison between seniors and the Mayor and the members of the City Council

## **Goals for 2019-2020**

### **1. Increase communication and interaction with the senior population**

- Action Step: Maintain the membership of the committee so that it is representative of seniors living in the various neighborhoods of the city, .has 12 active members, and has staggered 3-year terms,
- Action Step: Work through the interfaith clergy Group and others to identify the needs of the home-bound and socially isolated seniors.
- Action Step: Promote awareness of the Senior Advisory Committee through letters to editor, articles press releases, and electronic media.
- Action Step: Coordinate and cooperate with the Senior Center whenever appropriate.
- Action Step: If it seems desirable, hold a forum on topics of interest to seniors- citywide.

### **2. Advocate for the special mobility needs of seniors.**

- Action Step: Monitor availability of at least one drive-up Mail Box within the city.
- Action Step: Advocate for adequate “Accessible” Parking
- Action Step: Keep abreast of public transportation and special transportation available to seniors.
- Action Step: Promote walkability of city streets and accessibility to green belt trails.

### **3. Speak out for our City’s seniors in contact with our county, state, and federal government officials.**

- Action Step: Contact relevant public officials, as appropriate, regarding issues of concern to Saratoga Spring’s Seniors.

### **4. Stay abreast of developments in the City that might offer opportunities for seniors in the areas of housing, recreation, transportation, arts, health and community involvement.**

- Action Step: Attend and listen in on different organizations and committee meetings to see how their goals and successes can benefit seniors and to remind them of the needs of the senior population.
- Action Step: Liaisons to report back to The Mayor’s Senior Advisory Committee with the information they have gleaned and, if appropriate, suggest further action for Mayor’s Senior Advisory Committee.

## **Att #2: Action Plan**

### **ACTION PLAN 2019**

#### **Teams and their goals**

##### **Complete Streets Open Space Advisory Board, Greenbelt Trail, Sustainability**

###### **Re: Goal 2 Action Step (d)**

Initial task: – Gather information on sidewalk construction/rehabilitation, and status of walking trails behind Geyser Crest

Team Members: Celeste Caruso, Jared Littleboy, Ann Sheppard, Tammy D'Ercole (alternate)

##### **Community Development Advisory board, Homelessness, Senior Housing re: *Goal 4 step (a)*.**

Initial task: Investigate initiatives to improve affordable senior housing option in the city and the county.

Team Members: Celeste Caruso, Barb Thomas, Tammy D'Ercole

##### **Clergy Advisory re: *Goal 1 Action Step (c)***

Initial task: Work through the interfaith clergy Group and others to identify the needs of the home-bound and socially isolated seniors.

Team Members: Barb Thomas and Nancy Cameron

##### **Transportation & Emergency Medical Transport re: *Goal 2 Action Step (c) & Goal 4 step (a)*.**

Initial task - Look into the efficacy of a shuttle service to transport seniors to medical appointments

Team Members: Phil Diamond, Ann Sheppard, Susan Brennan, Chuck Meagher, Nedra Stimpfle

##### **Arts and Recreation/Health re: *Goal 4 Action step (a)***

Initial Task – Attend meetings of the Recreation Commission

Team Members: Dee Sarno, Jay Portnoy, Cliff Ammon, Anne Trainor

## **Att #3: Final “neighborhood meeting” at Academy for Lifelong Learning**

Report on the April 12 Mayor’s Senior Advisory Committee (MSAC) panel at Academy for Lifelong Learning (ALL):

The Mayor’s Senior Advisory Committee held a panel discussion at the Academy for Lifelong Learning on April 12, 2019. The panelists were Mayor Meg Kelly, Commissioner Skip Scirocco, Commissioner Peter Martin, the Senior Center’s director Lois Celeste, and Office for the Aging & New York Connects director Denise Yannaci. There were 29 people in attendance, the majority members of the Academy for Lifelong Learning.

The mayor reported on the progress towards the parking garage for the city center. She also said that the City has finished acquiring land for the Geyser road trail and the removal of trees will begin very shortly. She expects that the City Hall renovations will be completed by January 1 of 2020. She also mentioned that they have made considerable progress at City Hall in terms of issuing building permits within 30 days compared with 16 weeks previously. The city has received a Missing Links grant for sidewalks that are to be constructed are along Grand Avenue, East Avenue near Skidmore and Caroline Street near the school. They are moving ahead with the Greenbelt connector trails.

Skip reported that city owned buildings total 32. That the sidewalks on Congress Hamilton Street are being fixed as a result of previous suggestions. Also they are installing sidewalks on Ballston Avenue near the bowling alley.

Lois spoke about Community Connections and the services the center can provide as well as its need for volunteers. She also mentioned that socialization is one of the main benefits that the Senior Center provides. They are doing van trips to the senior center to bring people in and they have added some food programs in cooperation with the regional food bank, particularly fresh produce.

Commissioner Peter Martin urged everyone to call 911 if they suspect a medical emergency. He said it is better to err on the side of calling for assistance. He also mentioned that his department has a code enforcement officer who should be called if people notice dangerous situations such as broken sidewalks or unshoveled snow 24 hours after a snowfall.

Denise reported on the myriad of programs that the Office for Aging operates particularly the home delivered meals and the congregate dining program, Elderly In-Home Service Program (EISEP) which can provide housekeeping, meal prep, shopping services. She encourages people who might need some assistance to contact her agency and they will screen them for eligibility for services they may need.

The audience brought up concerns about the length of time for emergency vehicle response on the Eastern Ridge. The Mayor and Peter Martin said that an announcement will probably be forthcoming very shortly about a location for an EMS station on the ridge. There were questions about the need to improve walk ability at Crescent Avenue and on route 50. Homeless issues came up about the parking garage on Woodlawn and again Peter Martin suggested that people call 911 if they see any situation where they feel threatened.

The Mayor added that Shelters of Saratoga needs a permanent home for Cold Blue and they are moving forward with looking at a property.

There was a question from the audience about parking near downtown. Peter Martin responded by noting that parking and traffic concerns can be alleviated with a real parking management plan and that the city has applied for a grant to have that done. Parking limits will continue to change. The audience also expressed interest in green spaces and affordable housing for the poor, as well as workforce housing.

There was also a question about whether or not we have sufficient members of our police department to handle summer tourists. Peter Martin stressed that they do not allow many staff to take any time off in July and no emergency personnel are allowed to take vacation in August. He stated that it is better to have fully trained and operational staff than part time staff just for the summer. The mayor added that they can call for assistance from the Sheriff's department and the state police.

Barb Thomas

## **Att #4: Co-Housing**

Report on Co-Housing Meeting Friday, March 29, 2019  
at Presbyterian New England Congregational Church

This meeting was hosted by Lynn Gaffney, an architect who has been trained in developing Co-Housing communities. Celeste Caruso and I were the only members of the general public who attended. The rest were Lynne's family members.

In order to go about forming a co-housing community there would have to be an initial substantial payment (~ \$65,000 each) to form the group and go through planning, land acquisition, design. Ordinarily, the community would have open space in the center, surrounded by dwellings, with transit access to the back side of the dwellings. This kind of new built community is probably only feasible outside the Saratoga Springs City Limits and could be designed for mixed age buyers of seniors only. The process from building the community of members to actual construction likely takes 8 years.

By Barb Thomas

## **Att #5: Clergy Advisory –April 9, 2019**

### **Clergy Advisory Committee**

12:30 pm, Tuesday, April 9, 2019

Temple Sinai

Attended and reported by BarbThomas, MSAC

Present: George Stefani (1<sup>st</sup> Baptist); Pierre Zimmerman (Bhudist); Tom Chevalier (St. Peters); Tom Eucker (LDS); Mark Care (Revelation Church); Pastor Kate \_\_\_\_\_(PNECC); hosted by Rabbis Johnathan & Linda Rubenstein.. Mayor Meg Kelly. I may have missed some.

The topic for this meeting was homelessness. Karen Gregory, the new director at Shelters of Saratoga, and Erica Mason, their Outreach worker, presented the program:

There are 290+ homeless in Saratoga County.

Erica helps with stuff like tents, Safe Link (for a phone), clothes

Majority do not have a family in this area.

Average age is 40.

Meg asks about texting from restaurants regarding leftover food? Not available yet.

Need list of needed items to go to congregations

Code Blue had a fundraiser for tents now that the shelter is closed. Got 60 tents.

30 sober people are at SOS.

City will undertake the project for Code Blue because the City is exempt from zoning.

Revelation Church offers land for Code Blue (if the legal restrictions on the land can be worked out). This is land on the SW corner of Pine Street & Route 29.

Gregory mentioned that the Saratoga County per diem rate for homeless is way less than in other rural counties in NYS. The County writes the check, but is completely reimbursed by the State.

Zimmerman thinks Code Blue needs an advisory committee.

An untapped resource is retired professionals who could help with transition to permanent housing.

Asked what the homeless need, Erica said warming vans – possible old school buses.

Next meeting will be at the First Baptist Church, on Tuesday, May 14 at 12:30pm

The topic will be Veterans.

The June meeting will be at Revelation Church on 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday

## **Att #6: Report on Complete Streets (4-11-19)**

### **Complete Streets Program Meeting – April 11, 2019**

In attendance:

Tina Carton, Steve Godlewsk, Mary Lynn Bradley, Ted Orosz (Phone, Erin Maciel, Ken Grey, Catherine Hover MSAC Celeste Caruso, Jared Littleboy

- Greenbelt Trail update provided by Tina Carton ( see attached)
- Spoke about Green Trail Progress, which echoes what the Mayor announced at the ALL meeting last week. (From Barb's notes at meeting... "She also said that the City has finished acquiring land for the Geyser road trail and the removal of trees will begin very shortly"... "The city has received a Missing Links grant for sidewalks that are to be constructed are along Grand Avenue, East Avenue near Skidmore and Caroline Street near the school. They are moving ahead with the Greenbelt connector trails." Missing Links grant was discussed and a map of targeted streets was shown ( email to all committee members this morning)
- Smart Street Lamps were discussed. They will be energy saving all LED, will have a lot of application that can be added e.g. speed sensors to track vehicles, measure snow to send plow,

Prepared by Celeste Caruso/Jared Littleboy

Saratoga Greenbelt Trail Update – April 11, 2019

- Downtown Connector o Draft Design Report and Preliminary Design completed. o Completely off-road multi-purpose trail from Lake Avenue along High Rock Avenue north to Excelsior Avenue and ending at Exit 15 trail over the Northway. o Currently moving to right of way and easement work with three property owners. o GPI is working with National Grid to finalized placement of utility poles at one property and agreed to move the majority across the street and out of the way of the trail.
- Downtown Extender o Henry Street Pilot project: development and engineering to create the Henry Street Pilot project. This project will allow the City to test public reactions to separated bike lane from

Lake Avenue to Spring Street and southerly one-way traffic. Pilot projects have minimal upfront investment, evaluate designs, make necessary changes, and transition successful pilots to permanent buildouts where feasible. The pilot is expected to be set up on Henry Street in September. The City received \$5000 from CDTC to cover the costs of supplies and is applying to AARP by April 17th for additional funding.

- Crescent Avenue o Feasibility study has proven that there will be no right of way necessary to fit the trail on the south side of Crescent Avenue from S. Broadway to Nelson Avenue. o City will be moving forward with final engineering of the design for the trail to cross South Broadway. Create pedestrian and bicycle access on the south side of the street over a wide and dangerous intersection.

- Bog Meadow Trail o Amazing work by Saratoga PLAN in 2018 updating the portion south of Lake Avenue to the Bog Meadow Brook as well as southerly improvements including a new trail head and boardwalk at the Meadowbrook entrance. o Bog meadow brook bridge: City has released a RFQ due April 8th seeking a qualified engineering firm to provide engineered plans to replace the existing wooden footbridge over the Bog Meadow Brook with a pre-engineered composite foot bridge. Proposals will be evaluated on project approach, experience with similar projects, and overall cost. One response was received and it was higher than expected. The City may reissue the RFQ with a reduced scope. o Saratoga PLAN update on the Oakridge property donation

- Railroad Run o Public safety and DPW are working to improve the crossing of New Street at the YMCA . Improvements include a new pedestrian crossing signal and crosswalk as well as aligning the angle of Railroad Run trail to make it safer to cross. o Although not part of the trail, DPW will be completing the missing sidewalk links on the northern portion of Congress Avenue. Help residents and high school students navigate to the trail.

- Pitney Farm o Working with the Pitney Farm both on their trails plan and how this aligns with the conservation easement as well as discussions on the portion of the SGT that will go from the YMCA to and through the Pitney farm.