

MINUTES
AGING IN PLACE IN UNION COMMITTEE
Monday, May 6, 2019
William Pullen Building Meeting Room
1:00 p.m.

Present: Katie Tarbox, Anita Brown, Bob Williams, Dot Williams, Carol Watier, Clark Hooper, Martha Hooper, Wanda Gamage-Wyman, Phil Groce, guests from Washington, ME Charlotte Henderson and Christopher (Kit) Lascoutx, and speakers from St. George Neighbor to Neighbor ride share program, Diane Oelberger and Judy Smith. Carol Watier chaired the meeting.

1. Minutes of the March 11, 2019 meeting were approved as written by Katie Tarbox & Martha Hooper.
2. We began with discussion of any issues left over from our luncheon on March 14, 2019. Wanda heard there was desire for a program about providing home care for people who are taking care of persons in their own home.
3. We did introductions for guests and speakers.

4. I made these notes from the St. George Neighbor to Neighbor presenters:

(You may all have better notes of your own, but I am attaching my notes to help with further discussion.)

The web site is www.ridesinstgeorgeme.com

Diane Oelberger has been the coordinator for the St. George transportation program. She can be emailed at ridesinstgeorge@gmail.com

Information about the program can be viewed there.

When the program began in 2013 they were “flying by the seat of their pants.” No one wanted to be in charge of the committee. They had no policies in place. They were first challenged to show there was a need for drivers up the peninsula in St. George.

They are now organized as a nonprofit 501C3. They are not formally under the town even though the town does give them money. They now have a board of directors and insurance that covers the board of directors. They do not insure their drivers. They ask volunteer drivers check with their own insurance regarding providing volunteer rides. No money is exchanged, so the drivers fall under the “Good Samaritan” rules.

Costs are for printing advertising placards and for the dispatcher phone which is now an Android cell phone with costs of about \$600 a year. The current phone keeps the schedule recorded by Google calendar, but they started with just a track phone and making charts to track the rides.

They now have a volunteer application form and written policies for volunteer drivers. They inform applicants that they will be checking the DOT driving record. There is a cost to get these results, but it is the safer way to go. There is a greater fee to check the sexual predator list, so this is only done on an informal basis.

They have a volunteer who does a training program for all volunteer drivers during which they go over the policy.

Their program has grown to over 200 rides provided, so they are now in the process of hiring a paid administrator. This person will be paid on a consultant hourly basis. They expect this to be about 20 hours a week at \$15 per hour.

Drivers are not assigned. They have 27 drivers who get an email with a request for a ride. They choose what they take and respond "to all" so that other drivers will know immediately that the ride has a driver. If the dispatcher knows that the appointment or time required is more than two hours, they schedule it as two rides. One driver may still choose to provide both rides.

They encourage use of the volunteer rides even if it is not medical. They have a table at town voting days to get the word out. The first ride they ever gave was a referral from an EMT. They transport 21 and older and children accompanied by an adult.

It was discussed that as a committee we need to be clear in our understanding of the town interest in this sort of program. Diane suggested that we seek town opinions though a town informational meeting. We would like to discuss this with Town Manager Jay.

5. Carol Watier requested to be released from the role of chair of this committee. She will remain as a member. The secretary is to request in these minutes that a volunteer come forward to write an agenda and lead our next meeting. Bob & Dot Williams will be traveling in Alaska at our next meeting.
6. Bob inquired whether we might do another luncheon early in the summer with an outside barbeque. It is unknown whether the Union fire department owns a grill for such an event.
7. Our next meeting was scheduled for Monday, June 3, 2019 at 1:00 p.m. in the town office meeting room.

Respectfully submitted,

Anita Brown
Secretary