

Marshfield Planning Commission Meeting Minutes

7:00 p.m. • Tuesday, July 8, 2013 • Old School House Common

Members present: Jon Groveman, Julie Medose, Michael Schumacher, Faeterri Silver, Melissa Seifert and William Ritke-Jones

Member absent: Bob Light.

The meeting started at 7:05 p.m. The meeting was dedicated to a public forum on improving elder care in Marshfield. Below are notes related to the forum. A list of forum attendees may be obtained by contacting the Planning Commission.

Elder Care/Housing Forum – July 8, 2013

Michael Schumacher kicked off the forum. Michael discussed need for volunteers to step forward and work on elder care issues on behalf of the Town.

Melissa Seifert and William Ritke-Jones facilitates a discussion among the forum attendees on the issues, challenges and opportunities in addressing elder care in Marshfield.

Issues identified include: There is not enough housing in Marshfield; The demand for elder housing is unknown, so we don't know how many people need to be served ; The availability of services & transportation is not known; There is currently stress on family members to care for/house elderly family members; affordability of housing is an issue; It is unclear what the town is looking at in terms of elder housing options e.g., independent living, assisted living, what level of services is the town willing to provide, how is elderly defined, what is the elderly population the town is considering serving and what services do the elderly think is a priority.

In terms of opportunities, the attendees identified the following: Identify services Twin Valley Senior Center is already providing; GMTA is currently serving seniors; There are resources the town can tap into, e.g., CVLT and the Council on Aging; Cabot has had success addressing this issue; There is opportunity to work with Plainfield, East Montpelier these issues; Existing structures in town can be used to provide services; There is an opportunity to coordinate with Twinfield mentoring program and the Plainfield Health Center; and our Congressional delegation is interested in this issue and has resources.

Challenges identified include: There are many unknowns; There may be legal and funding obstacles; Working with other communities is both an opportunity and a challenge; There may be an overwhelming need; Defining who will be served; Maintaining momentum to deal with this issue; Defining the needs of seniors; and Tracking seniors to be and future needs;

Potential Solutions identified include: Create a hardcopy resource guide of senior services; Form a committee to address all of these issues – the Planning Commission does not have the capacity to take this on full time; and contact our Congressional delegation to identify assistance they can provide; – contact Bernie –

The following people volunteered to serve on a Committee to address these issues: Faeterri Silver, Rich Phillips, Barbara Bendix, Alan Taplow, Jenny Warshow, Jenny Egelhoff, Jessica Macleod, Dennis Ross. Meetings will be held the second Monday of each month at the OSC. The first meeting will be held on August 12th. Faeterri Silver will Chair first meeting, create agenda and invite Rita (who is the head of Twin Valley Senior Center).

Respectfully submitted,
Jon Groveman

Final
Approved August 13, 2013