Freedom Advisory Committee on Aging

Meeting January 19, 2023

In attendance: Rick Davidson, Anne Cunningham, Cindy Fleming and by Zoom Linda Habif, Renee Wheaton.

Meeting called to order at 1:35PM

Minutes of the January 2021 meeting were reviewed.

Cindy Fleming made a motion to accept the minutes, Anne Cunningham 2nd

Minutes approved. Linda Habif abstained.

We discussed Renee Wheaton’s, Senior Coordinator Annual report to the Selectboard. Anne Cunningham recommended adding general information about how the Senior Coordinator is responding to the needs of individuals. That will be added to her report.

Renee Wheaton described, in general, some types of needs that residents of Freedom have brought to her, and how she has helped connect them with services. Beyond addressing individual needs, she understands that others may have that need, too, and researches programs and services in order to disseminate that information to the community. She also provided an update on the town forums she held and will hold to hear from Freedom’s seniors about transportation needs and solutions. She has arranged with the Gibson Center to provide transportation for people, who can’t drive, so they can attend the meeting.

Rick Davidson reviewed the Gibson Center Mount Washington Valley Age Friendly Report, noting how much had been developed in the three years since the initiative here in Freedom and in the MWV began.

Linda Habif asked what was happening with elderly housing. Anne Cunningham updated the committee about current zoning regulations. At this time, no public town-sponsored projects are being proposed or planned.

Linda Habif asked for an update on the Community Gardens. Renee Wheaton is working with the Freedom Elementary School on an after-school project to bring seniors and children together to create gardens in the beds at the school. She is looking into making at least one of them a higher bed so it is accessible for people with reduced mobility.

The Committee discussed whether or not to remain as an Advisory Committee. All expressed the usefulness of continuing to serve in this capacity as a sounding board for the senior coordinator; and if she were to leave her position, the committee will be knowledgeable about her activities, so as to advise on a new hire. This could help make any transition smooth.

Anne Cunningham made a motion to keep the Freedom Advisory Committee on Aging in place for the next year, and to revisit the need next year.

Cindy Fleming seconded. All in favor.

Adjourned at 2:30.

Minutes respectfully submitted,

February 1, 2023

Cindy Fleming