

Age-Friendly Shepherdstown

Minutes

August 28, 2024

Attending: Marty Amerikaner, Charlotte Baker-Shenk, Marcy Bartlett, Jan Hafer, Stacey Kendig, Bob Smiles, Linda Spatig

The minutes of the June meeting were approved.

Since we had two new members joining the committee, Jan and Charlotte, we each introduced ourselves to the full group.

Old Business

1. Hearing Accessibility. After learning that Mayor Gatz is working on acquiring new hearing equipment for Town Hall, the group decided unanimously that we would send a letter of support from the committee. We agreed that the letter should recommend consulting with local experts in Hearing technology as well as local individuals with lived experience with hearing limitations. Further, we agreed to recommend that training with the equipment be provided for members of Town Council and town staff as needed. Jan Hafer agreed to assist with the training. Finally, we agreed to recommend the continued use of Zoom in all town meetings in order to increase accessibility for those with hearing limitations as well as those with mobility concerns.
2. Greater Shepherdstown Bike Route. Bob Smiles reported that the paved path at the west end of High Street was being constructed as we were meeting. We discussed small modifications in the route. Marcy will make those changes on the google map following an on-site review of the proposed changes. Stacey reported that new SU staff may need to be consulted on signage on the campus. She agreed to initiate conversation with those individuals on behalf of the committee.

New Business

1. Purpose statement for the committee. Linda reported that the mayor is asking all town committees to construct a purpose statement, along with strategic goals for FY25. Linda suggested we use our Age-Friendly Shepherdstown Action Plan for both purposes. She agreed to draft a purpose statement and list of goals for the committee to discuss.
2. Schedule of meetings through December 2024. The mayor also has asked each committee to set meeting dates for the rest of this calendar year. After some discussion, the group decided on the following dates: September 11, October 23,

and November 20. We decided that meeting again in just two weeks would allow us to complete agenda items we were unable to get to in the August meeting.