

**SENIORS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING SUMMARIES**

2020

March 30th

- Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the March meeting was cancelled and subsequent meetings are cancelled until further notice.

February 24th

- Mayor Wilson-Shee and Councillor McCaie-Burke provide an update to the committee regarding their meeting on February 18th with several local business owners for the purpose of determining if they would like to establish a business committee. They reported that the consensus of the group was that they would like to form a committee. Councillor McCaie-Burke provided the business owners with a summary of the New Maryland Age-Friendly community activities and a link for establishing a business committee. Councillor McCaie-Burke commented that a lot of business owners were not able to attend the meeting but are very interested in forming a committee, and she hopes to have a greater number in attendance at the next meeting in March.
- The committee reviewed a document prepared by Deputy Mayor Scholten which outlined the taxi companies that service New Maryland, their rates, any discounts for seniors and if they provide accessibility service. The suggestion was made to work with one taxi company to negotiate a deal, and it was agreed that it would be advisable for Council to discuss the idea of negotiations with local taxi companies for an exclusive provider and a possible car-share program at a future Council-in-Committee meeting.
- The committee discussed the idea of holding an Age-Friendly Fair, and Deputy Mayor Scholten shared information he acquired from the Town of Riverview regarding the details of their age-friendly (older adult) fair that they plan to host in November 2020. The committee agreed that a fair in New Maryland would be a good opportunity to promote awareness of services for seniors that are offered by businesses and local agencies. Mayor Wilson-Shee and Councillor McCaie-Burke agreed to discuss the idea of a fair with the Parish of New Maryland Zoomers at their March 9th meeting to hear their suggestions and determine if they would like to be a partner in this endeavour.
- The Assistant Clerk reminded the community representatives that those who wish to be considered to serve another term on the committee will need to submit completed “Expression of Interest to Volunteer on the Senior Advisory Committee” forms by March 4th. Council will review the applications received at the March 11th Council-in-Committee meeting and the resolution of Council to appoint committee members for the next year will be made at the March 18th Council meeting.

January 27th

- Mayor Wilson-Shee provide the committee with an update regarding the efforts that she and Councillor McCaie-Burke have made to meet with local business owners for the purpose of gaining community interest in forming a business committee. Further updates will be provided once that they have met again with the business owners in February 2020.
- Research continues into the possibility of providing 72-hour emergency kits to seniors and potential funding opportunities.
- The committee discussed the information that was presented at the November 2019 meeting regarding the Harvey Dial-a-Ride Program and deliberated about the potential of dial-a-ride and ride share programs as well as the ‘Uber’ model that may work in New Maryland. The committee felt that taxi services to New Maryland should be investigated further and Deputy Mayor Scholten agreed to contact local taxi companies to determine what services they provide to New Maryland, if they offer seniors discounts, and if so, how much, what the charge would be for fares to certain destinations in Fredericton, and which taxi companies offer accessibility service. The results of the Deputy Mayor’s research will be shared at the next meeting.

- The Community Action Plan was reviewed and updates were provided.
- Councillor McCaie-Burke provided an update from the Collaborative for Healthy Aging and Care meeting that she attended on December 9, 2019.
- The Assistant Clerk advised the community representatives on the committee that their 1-year membership expires in March 2020 and like last year, they will need to complete an “Expression of Interest to Volunteer on the Senior Advisory Committee” form if they wish to be considered to serve another term. She added that public advertisement will commence in mid February for residents to complete and submit a form if they are interested in serving on the committee.

2019

December – No meeting.

November 25th

- The committee received a presentation from Pat Carlson, with the Harvey Region Dial-a-Ride Program. The committee will be further reviewing the information that Pat provided to determine if this would be a program that would work well in our community.
- Councillor McCaie-Burke provided updates from the “Understanding Seniors Isolation and Loneliness” workshop and the “Supporting Age-Friendly Communities in Canada” conference that she attended in October. The information that was presented was found to be very interesting and pertinent to the work that the committee is doing, and it sparked conversation about projects that could be undertaken to further investigate the issue of seniors isolation and loneliness as well as funding that is available to assist with research. The committee will be examining these suggestions and having more in-depth discussions at the committee meetings in the new year.

October 28th

- The results from the survey indicate that public transportation for the majority of respondents is currently not an issue, however, the committee is moving forward with investigating alternate forms of transportation that may be feasible for residents who still have transportation needs, such as dial-a-ride and ride sharing programs. The committee has scheduled a presentation from the Harvey Region Dial-a-Ride program for their next meeting and the information gained from that presentation will assist the committee in furthering its research into possible programs for our community. A summary of the results of the survey has been posted on the Mayor’s Notepad on the Village website.
- The committee discussed the need for a review in the new year of the New Maryland Age-Friendly Community Action Plan that was adopted by Council in March 2018. The review is part of the committee’s mandate to update recommendations based on future findings and needs of the community and will provide the committee with a ‘report card’ on how well we are doing moving forward with the objectives and recommended actions, and identify areas where more work is required.
- Committee member Yvon LeBlanc provided an update to the committee regarding the age-friendly workshop that he and Councillor McCaie-Burke attended in Moncton on October 24th. The event was hosted by the Public Health Agency of Canada and the Research Centre on Aging at the Université de Moncton, and was a pre-conference component of the Canadian Association on Gerontology Conference. The focus of the workshop was to support the development and sustainability of Age-Friendly Communities through sharing what is working or showing promise in Age-Friendly Communities, identifying gaps and challenges for communities, and creating a space to share information and ideas with the goal of informing new partnerships and advancing the Age-Friendly Communities model in Canada.
- The committee agreed to hold a discussion regarding the possibility of holding an ‘Age-Friendly Fair’ in the early part of 2020.

September 23rd

- The first PNM Zoomers newsletter was published in September with a plan to publish a newsletter each month that contains information about health and living well, recipes, a monthly calendar of programs and upcoming Zoomer's activities, and much more. Copies of the newsletter can be obtained on the Village website or at the Village office, the New Maryland Pharmacy and Samimi's convenience. Anyone with great ideas for events are welcome to share their suggestions by phoning the Zoomers' president Gary Campbell at 455-3825 or emailing the Zoomers at pnmzoomers@gmail.com.
- The committee was provided with an update regarding development in the Orchard's Edge subdivision (located on the Forbes Property). A building permit was issued in August for the construction of a two-unit garden home. To advance the Village's strategic housing objectives, the property zoning and development approvals were conditional upon all lots on Lynda Lane being designated as "Universal Design Lots" and that they must incorporate the mandatory Universal Design features within the properties and dwelling units. The intent of the design criteria is to ensure that residents can "age in place" and only minor renovations will be required to render these units fully accessible. The requirement for these 'universal design lots' are in keeping with the New Maryland Age-Friendly Community Action Plan's housing objective 'to have a range of suitable and affordable housing options for seniors in New Maryland'.
- The transportation sub-committee met in June to review and analyze the results of the transportation survey, which was done in April and May of this year. The data shows that of the 519 responses received, 96.34% of respondents travel to and from Fredericton using their own vehicle. While the results indicate that public transportation for the majority of respondents is currently not an issue, the committee felt that some action could be taken to assist those who have transportation needs. The committee is still in the process of investigating and examining possible means of public transportation that may be feasible for the Village. More updates will be provided as they become available.

July and August – No meetings.

June 17th

- The committee further discussed aspects of a 'Neighbourhood Network' that could be employed in the Village. Suggestions for a monthly newsletter for the PNM Zoomers and the potential formation of a business committee were discussed with more information to come forward at the next meeting.
- The transportation sub-committee is still working on analyzing the data from the survey and will have a report to present in the fall.
- The committee was informed that the new residential development on the Forbes Property, is proposed to be called the "The Orchard's Edge Subdivision", and construction on the first of the dwelling units could possibly commence mid to late July, depending on the builder's intended timelines.

May 27th

- The committee received a presentation by representatives of ServUs Health regarding their new application that was created as a navigation and coordination tool built specifically for New Brunswick seniors, their families, and the people who serve them. The program is being piloted in New Brunswick only at the moment but ServUs Health's plan is to upscale the program and make it available across Canada.
- The initial results from the transportation survey, which closed May 17th, were reviewed by the committee. A transportation sub-committee was formed to do a more in-depth analysis of the survey data collected.
- The committee discussed additional information provided regarding the 'Neighbourhood Network' and how aspects of the program could be implemented in New Maryland.
- The committee was advised that with the amendments to the Municipal Plan By-law and the Zoning By-law that were enacted by Council at the April 17, 2019 Council meeting, work has commenced with the new residential development on a portion of the Forbes property, which consists of 17 building lots that will be accessed by a new street connecting with Crown Avenue. Currently infrastructure for the development is being installed and it is expected that the serviced building lots will be on the market by early to mid-summer.

April 29th

- New member Yvon LeBlanc was welcomed to the committee.
- The committee was informed that the transportation survey was issued on the Village website in English and French on April 1st and the deadline to complete the survey will be May 17th. Paper copies of the survey were also included in the April water and sewer billing that was mailed to residents. To date 511 completed surveys were received.
- An overview of the March 26th event that celebrated our Age-Friendly designation award was presented to the committee. A total of 109 people attended the event including: Lieutenant Governor Jocelyne Roy Vienneau; Minister Jeff Carr; MLA Lisa Harris; Village of New Maryland Council and staff; Mayors, Councillors and staff members from other municipalities; members of the former Age-Friendly Community Ad hoc Committee; Seniors Advisory Committee members; PNM Zoomers; Executive Directors from the Union of Municipalities of NB; the Association of Municipal Administrators of NB; RSC 11; and residents from the community.
- The committee reviewed information regarding a membership organization 'Neighbourhood Network' that is in place for older residents in Maine communities and offers repairs and maintenance assistance to those who need it, as well as other services.

March 26th

- The regular SAC meeting that was scheduled for March 25th at 7 pm was not be held, and in lieu, the Village hosted an Age-Friendly Celebration Ceremony on Tuesday March 26th.

February 25th

- The revised version of the transportation survey was reviewed by the committee in preparation for its release in April.
- The committee was informed that the Wellness Branch of the Dept. of Social Development will be officially presenting the Village with an award in recognition of its designation in 2018 as being an Age-Friendly Community. The Dept. of Social Development also advised that they will make \$2,500 available to the Village to help host a public celebration in honour of this achievement.
- The committee reviewed updates made to the Community Action Plan.
- The committee was reminded that the Public Hearing for the proposed developments on the Forbes property and on Baker Brook Court will be held March 13th at the NM Centre.

January 28th

- Deputy Mayor Scholten provided an update to the committee on the status of the proposed transportation survey. Council has approved the content of the survey with some minor changes to be made, and has agreed that the survey will be issued with the next water & sewer billing in April.
- The committee reviewed a breakdown of the results of the Adult Day Care survey which closed January 18th. Out of the 12 responses that were received one person indicated that they would like to be part of the pilot project and provided their contact information. Unfortunately, this was not enough information to move forward with the funding application and therefore the proposed pilot project will not be proceeding at this time.
- Committee members were informed that their one-year term on the committee will be expiring in March. Anyone who would like to volunteer to serve on the Seniors Advisory Committee is encouraged to complete an 'expression of interest' form, which has been posted on the Village's Facebook and Twitter pages and on the Village website at www.vonm.ca. There are six seats available on the committee for Village residents who are interested in volunteering. The deadline to submit application forms is March 7th. Once Council has had the opportunity to review all of the forms received, a decision will be made and the successful applicants will be contacted. The appointment of committee members will be made at a future Council meeting.
- An update was provided to the committee about the 'Zoomers on the Go' program which is being undertaken by the University of New Brunswick. This 12-week program, which begins in April, is geared toward residents age 50+ and will focus on personalized fitness and health assessments that will lead to improved mobility and a reduced risk of falling. Only 20 participants will be accepted for this FREE exercise program. More information can be found on the Village website, Facebook and Twitter pages. Any interested seniors can contact the UNB research team at cellab@unb.ca or 458-7034.

2018

December – No meeting

November 26th

- The transportation sub-committee provided a draft survey to the committee for review. The proposed survey will help determine the transportation needs/desires of the community as a whole, in addition to the needs of seniors. The committee approved the survey and agreed to send to Council for review and approval.
- The committee also reviewed the proposed Adult Day Care survey and agreed to send it out in the January water and sewer billings to residents if Council approves it.
- An update from the Regional Age-Friendly Networking event that was held November 21st at Odell Park lodge was given by committee Art Standing.
- Councillor provided an update from the age-friendly presentation that she and Deputy Mayor made for the communities of Riverview, Petitcodiac and Alma.

October 22nd

- The committee reviewed information regarding costs involved in providing a possible shuttle service in the community. The committee agreed that an assessment should be done to determine demand, ridership, rates that passengers would be willing to pay, and if the service would be feasible. A sub-committee was formed to discuss a plan to implement a transportation project.
- The committee reviewed the status update for the Community Action Plan which contained updated information provided by staff. The committee made suggestions for further changes and an updated version will be reviewed at the January 2019 meeting.
- A letter from the Public Health Agency of Canada was shared with the committee, which congratulated the Village on being recognized by the Government of New Brunswick for our commitment to becoming an Age-Friendly Community, and invited us to join the WHO Global Network for Age-Friendly Cities and Communities. Mayor Wilson-Shee and Councillor Gisèle McCaie-Burke have agreed to work together to compile the necessary information to submit our membership application online. Membership benefits include being party to information that is shared globally and being internationally visible, and it also verifies that we are continually working on age-friendly initiatives which can be beneficial when applying for funding.

September 17th

- UNB student Emily Wright made a presentation regarding research she is doing in the area of mobility of older adults age 65+ through the use of wireless technology and includes sensors that are worn on the body that measure the physical activity and physical capacity of participants. The information generated from this research will provide researchers with a better understanding of movement in the aging population, which is a key determiner in the quality of life of older adults.
- Councillor Gisèle McCaie-Burke and Councillor Tim Scammell gave an update to the committee regarding the 'Transportation Planning for Public Officials' course they attended last month which was held by Trevor Hanson, Associate Professor of Civil Engineering at UNB. The course included information regarding the last 70 years of transportation planning tools and practices in New Brunswick and focused on the importance of understanding transportation needs through the collection of data. The committee agreed to do some research into possible options for improving transportation services for seniors in New Maryland.
- The WHO domain 'Social Participation' was reviewed by the committee and suggestions were brought forward regarding ways that we can encourage seniors to be more socially active. It was felt that communication to residents for the services and programs we offer can be improved, and the committee agreed that further review in this area is recommended.
- Committee member Jane Findlater provided information to the committee about the Healthy Seniors Pilot Project, which is a \$75 million three-year agreement between the Government of New Brunswick and the Public Health Agency of Canada jointly led by the Government of New Brunswick's Department of Social Development and the Department of Health through the Aging Secretariat. A sub-committee was formed that will review the

funding requirements and application form and make recommendations to the committee for potential projects that would qualify under this program. The committee will plan to have the funding application ready for the February 2019 submission deadline.

July and August – No meetings

June 25th

- The committee reviewed the Community Action Plan and agreed to focus on the two main topics of ‘housing’ and ‘transportation’, which were shown to be top priorities for Village seniors from the data that was collected from the age-friendly survey and consultation meetings in 2017. Many of the activities in the Plan have been completed such as improved lighting on the highway and around the Village office, paving of Victoria Hall parking area, and an expanded network of benches in the Village.
- Guest speaker Trevor Hanson, Associate Professor of Civil Engineering at UNB, attended the meeting to make a presentation regarding volunteer driving programs that may be an option to consider for senior transportation in New Maryland. The committee is dedicated to working toward the objective of encouraging accessible and affordable transportation options for seniors.

May 28th

- An update of the ‘Alternative Housing for Seniors’ seminar held on May 3rd was presented to the committee from the participants who attended. The topic of the seminar was ‘Cohousing’ which is a community approach to independent living where facilities and amenities are shared.
- The results of the Request for Expressions of Interest in the Forbes property, which closed May 10th, were reviewed. The RFEI included the development of a portion of land that would provide housing options for seniors. No proposals were submitted which has led Council to decide to work with staff and Village engineering consultants to reassess the RFEI and determine how best to generate more interest in the Forbes property.
- The WHO Domain of ‘Transportation’ was discussed and the committee agreed to further discussion and investigation of transportation options for Village seniors.
- Funding opportunities were reviewed.

April 23rd

- The committee agreed that a page for the Seniors Advisory Committee should be created on the Village website that would provide information about the committee, and links to sources of information on a varying range of age-friendly topics that would be beneficial to seniors.
- Staff will be working on posting information on the website that pertain to seniors housing, aging in place, home renovations, government supports, funding and other available service and programs that could be of interest to seniors.

March 26th

- The committee held its first meeting and reviewed the Terms of Reference that were established for the committee.
- Councillor Gisèle McCaie-Burke gave a verbal overview of the work that the former Age-Friendly Community Ad hoc Committee accomplished over the past year.
- Deputy Alex Scholten led the committee in the review of the New Maryland Age-Friendly Community Action Plan which includes the eight World Health Organization (WHO) domains of age-friendly communities.