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MINUTES

Livable Communities Committee Meeting Thursday, January 22, 2026 @ 7:00 pm Seymour Town Hall - Flaherty Room

Members Present: Jennifer Behuniak, Saundra Gesek, Betty Musto, & Suzanne Reilly
Public: Jeff Baryla

1. Suzanne called the meeting to order @ 7:06 pm.
2. Pledge of Allegiance: all stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Public comment: Jeff Baryla shares the new 'The Seymour Sun' newsletter covering environmental and conservation concerns across Seymour. The physical copies are available in town hall. Issue 3 was released in December 2025.
4. Approval of the October 23, 2025, Meeting Minutes: Betty made a motion to approve the November 20, 2025, meeting minutes which was seconded by Saundra. Motion carried.
5. Member Updates:
 1. Social Participation
 2. Respect & Social Inclusion
 3. Communication & Information

Suzanne: Shares the mailing her and Betty had been working on was sent out to 67 families across Seymour. The list of those who received the mailing were the residents who did not re-enroll for the senior center in 2025. The focus continued to be those who might be isolated in town. AARP Livable Communities grant is open and due in March. There is a webinar to review past awardees. A new municipal agent was hired for the town.

Saundra: Shares the Red Cross has a program to send volunteers to check the smoke detectors in homes. They provided new detectors when needed and educational materials on exit routes and plans in case of fire.

6. New Business:
AARP Livability Index: the group discusses Seymour's 49 Overall Livability Score. Civic & Social Involvement was one of the lower scored areas on the index.

The members discuss the goals for 2026. To continue the outreach program reaching out to Seniors not continuing to re-enroll in the senior center. Members were in agreement to keep the same goals as 2025.

1. Social Participation
2. Respect & Social Inclusion
3. Communication & Information

Suzanne to reach out to Mary at the Community Center on how much funding was used in 2025 to estimate the ask for the coming budget year.

1. Send out two mailings per year to our target population. Mailing of local & emergency information, and encouraging participation in offered town services.
 2. Monthly phone calls to households with older individuals- reaching each participant at least 4 per year. Follow with mailed not if not reached.
 3. Work alongside the Community Center Director and Senior Services Coordinator with feedback from calls.
 4. Work with the town social services covering Seymour to create a mailing with timely and useful information.
 5. Recruit additional volunteers to assist with our efforts.
 6. Review past walkability efforts by the LCC.
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7. Old Business: members set dates to meet & make calls.
 8. Prepared the Agenda for Thursday, February 26, 2026 meeting.
Finalize 2026 Committee Goals
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9. Public comment: Jeff Baryla shares the Beautification Committee's new partnership with the Seymour Land Trust. Collectively they decided to use the Land Trust Building, Henry Hamel Environmental Building to start hosting environmental classes. Jeff recently received a Master Woodland Manager certification. Jeff will be hosting activities monthly at the Henry Hamel building, starting February 21, 2026 for all ages. Light refreshments will be provided. Jeff also shares the work parties to maintain the open spaces in Seymour. Jeff is also working on proposing new trails on newly acquired town land in Keith Mitchell forest. Saturday at 10AM Jeff is also doing his annual meet and greet about Heavenly Donuts to be available to the public for questions on his various conservation work across Seymour.
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10. Jennifer made a motion to adjourn, and Suzanne seconded the motion. The motion carried.
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11. The meeting adjourned at 8:36PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Behuniak, Secretary