Members Present: Maxine Beecher, Bernadette Kroon, Lisa Joyce, Karen Tayler, Kristen Barth, Anthony Grande, Sue Henderson Chad Macleod, Jana Grant, Katheryn Adams, Emily Scully, Ellen Sanborn, Stephanie Weaver, Scott Morelli.

Call to order: by Maxine Beecher

Acceptance of Minutes: Minutes of the Executive Committee 1/26meeting were accepted by members of the Exec Committee
Minutes of the January meeting were accepted with following corrections to names: Kristen Barth and Nevajda

Guest speakers: Kristen introduced City Clerk, Emily Scully who spoke about the Freedom of Information Access Act (FOAA). She began by thanking the committee for our work. She noted they we are beholden to FOAA as a law. Then screen shared South Portland’s policy on committees which is stricter than the FOAA regulations. Even two committee members are not permitted to communicate outside of a meeting and things that we have done as a group, such as distribute flyers probably should have been posted as a meeting. Later in the evening, Kristen disclosed that it had been said that the way we wrote our Action Plan was a violation because we sent a document around for edits. If we became a non-profit, would we keep access to the grant money that we have? The answer from city staff was yes. Would we lose our designation as an Age Friendly City, the answer was that is up to AARP. Would the city do background checks for us? No, provide legal coverage, No. Although the city still could provide us a stipend. The city now handles our money and posts documents on the city website. Insurance, banking and auditing of finances and cost of social media would be costs to us an a separate non-profit. City staff suggested that we might find helpful information at the Maine Association of Non-profits.

It was noted by a committee member that a change in status might endanger our ability to receive grants. With our present status there is about $35,000 dollars in grant money we could apply to receive in the next few months, this opportunity may be lost. Ellen thought that would not change, the city could receive the grant and give the money to us.
The question was raised whether it would be possible to have a dual status, one arm of our organization by under the auspices of the city and the other not. Chad will ask the city manager this question. Lisa will start collecting data about what other cities are doing re non-profit status.

It was agreed that we would move our meeting time to 6:30 to 8 and have an Exec Committee Meeting from 6-6:30. It was noted that this format would require that the subcommittees report on their work. However it was also noted that because of South Portland’s Committee rules the subcommittees really cannot function. It was agreed that nothing will be done until next month.
The Action Plan was reviewed in relation to key players and grant funding.
The next meeting will be March 9th.
Recording Sue Henderson