

The Pinehurst Senior Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda



Date: Monday, July 6th, 2026

Time: 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Location: Village Hall

1. Call to Order

- Welcome & Opening Remarks: Mayor Patrick Pizzella
- Village Council and Senior Staff

2. Approval of Minutes

- Review and approval of the June 01, 2026, SAC Regular Meeting Minutes
- Review and approval of the June 15, 2026, NAC-SAC Joint Meeting Minutes

3. Feedback From The NAC-SAC Joint Meeting

- Discussion: Committee Members, Council Members and Guests

4. Working Group Presentations

- **Healthy Aging Working Group**
 - Given Tufts Bookstore Collaboration
 - Given Memorial Library Collaboration
 - Report: Fire Dept Initial Meeting
- **Safety & Security Working Group**
 - Feedback from NAC-SAC Meeting
 - Silver Shield Risk Reduction Concept
- **Demographics Working Group**
 - Overview of the AARP Livability Index
 - AARP Age Friendly Community Survey Instrument Overview
- **Communications Working Group**
 - SAC Messaging Pillars
 - SAC Event Calendar
 - AARP AFCS Awareness Campaign

5. Featured Presentation

- Presentation by Ms. Lynne Drinkwater, Program Coordinator, "Overview of the Moore County Senior Engagement Center, Mission, Purpose and Programs".
- Discussion and Questions

6. Public Comment

7. Closing Comments

Next Meeting: Monday, August 3, 2026, 3:00 PM, Village Hall



**Senior Advisory Committee
Minutes for the Regular Meeting of June 1, 2026
Assembly Hall
395 Magnolia Road
Pinehurst, North Carolina
03:00 p.m.**

The Senior Advisory Committee held a Regular Meeting at 03:00 p.m., Monday, June 1, 2026, in the Assembly Hall of Pinehurst Village Hall, 395 Magnolia Road, Pinehurst, North Carolina.

The following attendees were present:

Ms. Kathy Beeman RN, SAC Member
Bill Grover MD, PhD., SAC Member
Ms. Suzanne LaFollette-Black, SAC Member
Mr. Mike Pearce, SAC Member
Ms. Lisa Smith, SAC Member
Ms. Patricia Smith RN, SAC Member
Ms. Marti Harrigan, SAC Member
Ms. Beth Wilson, SAC Member

Mayor Patrick Pizzella
Mr. Kevin Fitzpatrick, Council Member
Mr. Doug Wilderson, Village Manager

1. Call to Order & Opening Remarks

Mayor Pizzella called the meeting to order at 3:00 PM. A round of introductions and brief remarks followed. The mayor reiterated that the goal of the Senior Advisory Committee (SAC) is to help the VOP, well known to be a safe and supportive municipality, to become an even more age friendly community. Mr. Fitzpatrick then greeted the many members of the community in the audience. A flip chart was placed at the entrance to Assembly Hall and attendees were encouraged to jot down their thoughts as to what "An Age Friendly Community Mean to Them". Mr. Fitzpatrick also distributed two books recommended by our Working Group, Dr. Grover and Ms. LaFollette-Black. These are: *This Is Where You Belong: Finding Home Wherever You Are* and the *New Rules of Aging Well*. These books will be discussed by the full committee and the working groups.

2. Working Group Organizational Model

It was determined, at the SAC's first meeting, that the Committee's initial objective would be to develop a clearer understanding of the current state of ageing in Pinehurst. To help organize and focus on this work, several potential areas of concentration were discussed. The Senior Advisory Committee identified four initial focus areas:

- Demographics
- Healthy Aging
- Communications
- Safety and Security

These focus areas are intended to help guide the Committee's early research, discussions, and future recommendations to the Village Council.

Committee members were asked to volunteer to serve on two of the four Working Group and a Chair for each Working Group was appointed.

Demographics Working Group:

Chair – Suzanne LaFollette-Black Mike Pearce

Members – Micheal Pearce, Patricia Smith, Lisa Smith

Communications Working Group:

Chair – Marti Harrigan

Members – Patricia Smith, Carolyn Horton, Kathy Beeman, Lisa Smith

Healthy Aging Working Group:

Chair – Bill Grover

Members – Marti Harrigan, Beth Walker, and Suzanne LaFollette-Black

Safety and Security Working Group:

Chair – Beth Walker

Members – Bill Grover, Kathy Beeman, Carolyn Horton

The Working Group Chairs have been coordinating meeting with their Working Groups and good progress is already being made.

3. Working Group Chairs Progress Reports

Demographics Working Group:

Chair – Suzanne LaFollette-Black Mike Pearce

Members – Micheal Pearce, Patricia Smith, Lisa Smith

Ms. LaFollette-Black reported that the demographics' working group has been collecting data from publicly accessible resources to understand the profile of our senior community in Pinehurst. We are also benchmarking that demographic profile against municipalities throughout North Carolina. Suzanne shared data that the AARP has been collecting about Pinehurst and its third-party evaluation of Pinehurst as a rather successful age friendly community.

The working group's next task will be to identify and implement survey instruments that can help us to better understand the needs and desires of Pinehurst seniors. We are currently reviewing some survey resources from AARP. We think it would be valuable to be able to compare our results using a psychometrically validated instrument that would allow us to compare ourselves against comparable municipalities throughout the US.

Mayor Pizzella commented on the growing issue of social isolation and referenced the book, *Bowling Alone* by Robert D. Putnam. In it the author argues that Americans have become increasingly disconnected from civic, social, religious, and community organizations, leading to a decline in what he calls "social capital", the networks of relationships and trust that strengthen society. Putnam contends

that this erosion of community engagement has weakened civic life, reduced social cohesion, and diminished the collective ability of citizens to address common challenges. which documents the erosion of formal and informal community organizations.

Communications Working Group:

Chair – Marti Harrigan

Members – Patricia Smith, Carolyn Horton, Kathy Beeman, Lisa Smith

Ms. Harrigan reported that the working group has been given considerable attention to understanding the many communications channels that are available to us via the village of Pinehurst. The working group is also cognizant that there are many different learning styles within our senior community. These range from individuals who prefer print media to individuals who prefer verbal communications from trusted resources. Communications through the faith-based community, online information or the use of social media newspapers etcetera.

All these different media channels will need to be considered and utilized as we go forward. The working group has also been considering how best to establish a bidirectional exchange of information between the senior residents of our municipality and the working group.

One important step in that direction will be a joint meeting of the Pinehurst neighborhood advisory committee and the senior advisory committee to be held in Assembly Hall on June 15th at 3pm. We believe this could be one of the best channels for bidirectional communication available to us. Ms. Harrigan has also been working on an internal database and internal communications system that would allow all the members of the committee to be up to date as to the activities and the thinking of each of the working groups.

Safety and Security Working Group:

Chair – Beth Walker

Members – Bill Grover, Kathy Beeman, Carolyn Horton

Ms. Walker Reported that the safety and security working group has been discussing physical and home safety and security as well as online fraud. The working group discussed home falls, and the data that we have available as to their frequency and location.

The working group concluded that the most beneficial and impactful program would be an initiative aimed at online fraud risk reduction. It has been reported that there were over \$4 million in online fraud losses in calendar year 2025. Perhaps there is no issue of crime in Pinehurst that is as prevalent and vexing as online scams. The working group has been collecting information from organizations such as AARP, First Bank and others that might form a template for programs that we could conduct throughout the community. Perhaps there's even a train- the -trainer model similar to Doctor or Sullivan's Brain Change ambassadors.

To make sure that we're operating in true partnership with the Police Department members of the working group will be meeting with chief Webb tomorrow to discuss the issue of online fraud and abuse and to brainstorm opportunities where maybe we may help in risk reduction efforts.

Healthy Aging Working Group:

Chair – Bill Grover

Members – Marti Harrigan, Beth Walker, and Suzanne LaFollette-Black

Dr. Grover reiterated that the goal of this Working Group is to advocate for a preventative medical approach to healthy aging, with dissemination to the Pinehurst community of the choices available offered by scientifically proven studies in the areas of nutrition, exercise, socialization, avoidance of toxins, etc.

The necessary first step is to understand the current state of our senior community's health. A sound starting point is to examine all the existing sources of data including EMS, Fire Rescue, Demographic and ER Data.

EMS Data

Councilman Fitzpatrick gave an overview of county EMS data for 2025. This includes EMS emergency responses to homes of seniors in the 28374-area code. The data includes 840 calls, broken down by incident type as follows:

Top 5 Call Types:

- Breathing Problems — 184 calls
- Falls — 137 calls
- Sick Person — 82 calls (whatever that means!)
- Chest Pain — 75 calls
- Cardiac/Respiratory Arrest — 43 calls

It was noted that the rate of cardiac arrest in 28374 is 4 – 4x higher than the average municipality. This can be partially explained by the mean age of our residents, but it also points out the need for civic.

We will be meeting with Chief Clouston to discuss EMS and Fire Department call data in 28374. We're especially interested in residents who may be experiencing multiple falls and calls for lifts. Chief Clouston is compiling the location of all the AEDs in the village and also Geo mapping their locations. We think that the SAC can be very useful in helping drive awareness of these devices and also to encourage basic life support training within the community.

4. A Presentation from Dr. Karen Sullivan

Doctor Karen Sullivan is a board-certified clinical neuropsychologist and founder of Pinehurst Neuropsychology in Pinehurst, North Carolina. She specializes in brain health, memory disorders, dementia care, and neuropsychological assessment, and previously served on the faculty of the University of North Carolina School of Medicine. Dr. Sullivan is widely recognized for her leadership in advancing dementia-inclusive communities through initiatives such as the Engaged Brains Project and her work promoting brain health education throughout Moore County.

Dr. Sullivan shared with us the work she and her 60 Ambassadors are doing to keep individuals with brain change connected to the community. She also shared with us her vision of a brain change sanctuary allowing care partners a respite and a safe place to remain actively engaged. She spoke about the synergy she sees with her work and the work of the SAC. Her presentation was, as always, inspirational as well as a call to action.

5. Closing Remarks

The committee solicited comments from attendees and the audience, and the valuable and lively discussion ensued with many offers of help and alliance. With the word of congratulations on a very productive meeting mayor Patrick pizzella gaveled the meeting adjourned at 4:30 PM.

Next Meeting: Monday July 6th 3pm Village Hall

Respectfully submitted, Councilmember Kevin Fitzpatrick



**Senior Advisory Committee (SAC)
Neighborhood Advisory Committee (NAC)**

**Minutes for the Joint Special Meeting
Assembly Hall, Pinehurst, North Carolina**

**Monday, June 15, 2026
3:00 p.m.**

Pinehurst Village Council Members

- Mayor Patrick Pizzella
- Mayor-Pro-Tem John Taylor
- Council Member Barb Ficklin
- Council Member Kevin Fitzpatrick

NAC Committee Members

- Gregg Johnson – *CCNC*
- Gloria Hannan – *Clarendon Gardens*
- Jennifer Tomilin – *Donald Ross*
- Carol Higgins – *Doral Woods*
- VACANT – *East Lake Pinehurst*
- VACANT – *East Midland Rd.*
- ABSENT - Jeff Heintz – *L. Pinehurst*
- Mac Chestnut – *Linden Rd. West*
- VACANT – *Monticello*
- Carolyn Jamison – *North L. Pinehurst*
- Greg Linville – *North Morganton Rd.*
- Martha Wicker – *Old Town East*
- Randy Gould – *Old Town West*
- Keith Eldridge – *Pinehurst No. 6*
- Kimberly Davis – *Pinehurst No. 7*
- Don Thrower – *Pinehurst South*
- Jim Rooney – *Pinehurst Trace*
- Joseph Shea – *Pinewild*
- Kevin McKinney – *Village Acres*
- VACANT – *West Lake Pinehurst*
- Bruce Geddes – *Extra Territorial Jurisdiction*

SAC Committee Members

- Kathy Beeman – *Safety & Security*
- Suzanne LaFollette-Black – *Chair, Demographics Working Group*
- Bill Grover- *Chair, Healthy Aging Working Group*
- Marti Harrigan – *Chair, Communications Working Group*
- Mike Pearce- *Demographics*
- Lisa Smith- *Communications (absent)*
- Patricia Smith - *Communications*
- Beth Walker – *Chair, Safety & Security Working Group*

The Neighborhood Advisory Committee and the Senior Advisory Committee held a Joint Special Meeting at 3:00 p.m. on Monday, June 15, 2026, in Assembly Hall, Pinehurst, North Carolina.

1. Welcome and Opening Remarks

Mayor Pizzella welcomed attendees and emphasized the importance of collaboration between the Village's advisory committees. He noted that both committees share a common commitment to strengthening community engagement, improving quality of life, and ensuring that Pinehurst remains an exceptional place to live for residents of all ages.

Councilmember Fitzpatrick provided an overview of the purpose of the meeting and described it as the beginning of an ongoing partnership between the Neighborhood Advisory Committee and the Senior Advisory Committee. He noted that the SAC was created to serve as a bridge between older residents and Village leadership and emphasized that aging well is not a problem to solve; it is a time of life to celebrate, a season of life to enhance, and a community responsibility we share together.

Mayor Pro-Tem Taylor made the important observation that while we live today's active retirement years it's easy to overlook the importance of planning for future needs.

2. Founding Principles of the Senior Advisory Committee

Suzanne LaFollette-Black provided an overview of the founding principles of the Senior Advisory Committee. She described the committee's mission to listen, advise, and advocate while serving as a conduit between Pinehurst's older residents and Village leadership.

3. What the SAC Hoped to Learn from the NAC

Marti Harrigan outlined the goals for the afternoon's discussion and invited NAC members to share their perspectives regarding the needs, concerns, and aspirations of older adults within their respective neighborhoods.

4. Opportunities for Collaboration

Beth Walker discussed opportunities for ongoing collaboration between the two committees, including communications, fraud prevention, emergency preparedness, fall prevention, social engagement, and age-friendly community initiatives.

5. Breakout Group Discussions

Attendees participated in breakout sessions organized around Healthy Aging, Safety and Security, Communications, and Demographics. Common themes included neighborhood connectivity, online fraud prevention, effective communication channels, health and wellness education, and data-driven planning.

6. Healthy Aging Breakout Summary – Dr. Bill Grover

Dr. Grover, serving as Chair of the Healthy Aging Working Group of the SAC, led breakout groups in discussions of senior health issues including fitness, sleep requirements, nutrition and personal safety. The breakout groups also discussed the hope that books and other materials on healthy aging can be provided at the Givens Memorial Library and Tufts archives as well as the Givens-Tufts bookstore.

7. Safety and Security Breakout Summary – Beth Walker

Justice Walker, serving as Chair of the Safety and Security Working Group of the SAC, led this breakout group. Much of the discussion focused on cyber-crime. As with all discussions with Senior groups, almost every participant has had a personal experience with this growing and pernicious criminal risk. While a robust discussion of online risk was anticipated, it was again noted that personal safety is an ongoing concern.

8. Demographics Breakout Summary – Suzanne LaFollette- Black

Ms. LaFollette-Black, serving as Chair of the Demographics Working Group of the SAC, led breakout discussions probing the question as to how we can collect accurate data on the needs and concerns of our Senior Community. Ongoing close collaboration between the NAC and the SAC is viewed as paramount. The opportunity to utilize the AARP Age Friendly Community Survey was discussed extensively. Based on feedback from the attendees, it's clear that the need to handle paper-based responses will be a critical success factor in our efforts.

9. Communications Breakout Summary – Marti Harrigan

Ms. Harrigan, serving as Chair of the Communications Working Group of the SAC, led these breakout groups. The discussions focused on the requirement that effective bi-directional communication between the senior population and the SAC will be a critical success factor. Discussions focused on the need to utilize person to person communications in addition to print and online channels. The NAC and the faith-based community will be critical allies in our efforts.

Recap and Next Steps

Discussion leaders summarized key observations and participants expressed strong support for continued collaboration between the NAC and SAC.

10. Adjournment

There being no further business, Mayor Pizzella declared the meeting adjourned at approximately 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Fitzpatrick
Councilmember
Village of Pinehurst