

Minutes
Age Friendly Community Committee
Town Manager's Office
July 12, 2019
2:00pm

NOTE TIME CHANGE

Attendance:
Committee

Cody McEwen (Chair), Louis Pelletier, Tom Malcolm (Fire Chief), Jane Danforth (Thrive Penobscot/MRH).

Meeting called to order by Chair McEwen at 2:00pm.

I. Review of previous meetings minutes.

No changes.

II. Discussion of the recently held AARP Rural Livability Workshop.

The committee discussed the AARP Rural Livability Workshop and decided to use documents and ideas from materials presented to increase committee productivity. Topics from the workshop such as needs for transportation, providing useful information such as emergency and community contacts to the elderly, and providing support to current in-home assistance programs were discussed as potential starters to address our committee action goals. A handy helper program is an idea the committee would like to develop to help those that do not have the means to make basic home improvements. A home fit guide from the workshop is a program the committee could use as a model.

Highlights from the workshop materials are that communities collectively are undergoing both economic and demographic shifts between the types of industries available for the workforce as well as the balance between baby-boomers and millennials. Both sets of demographics share a large sector of the entire population. Baby-boomers are the largest demographic, though are being eclipsed by millennials that take up the biggest section of the workforce.

A key difference between the groups is that baby-boomers sociologically acquired a job first, and then moved to where that job was located to work and live. Millennials on the other hand, move to where they want to live first, and then find a job or multiple jobs — as a gig economic model — to thrive. It was noted that 40% of millennials prefer a rural setting to live, contingent on having a vibrant downtown and access to high speed broadband internet.

It is to note that Baby-boomers are not done working. Many are thriving well past the expected retirement age of 65 and some are starting new careers. Balancing these two demographics will be essential in providing recommendations to other committees, the council body, as well as organizations deemed essential to network with.

III. Continue discussion of Action Goals determined from the last meeting.

It was decided by the committee to accomplish our action goals based on our domains of livability and priorities from the May 30th meeting, we need to broaden our networks and develop with organizations that have similar goals. We need to get them around the table and a part of the committee.

Jane noted that Thrive Penobscot is finalizing their transportation study which will be an essential element in developing plans to meet our goals for that domain of livability.

IV. Determine summer schedule and set next meeting.

Next meeting set for Friday, September 6th, 2019 at 3:00pm in the Manager's office.

Meeting adjourned at 3:00pm.