



Age Friendly Millinocket

Meeting Minutes

January 9, 2024

2:00pm/ Millinocket Memorial Library/Zoom

Meeting Attendees: Jane Danforth, Age-Friendly Committee Chair, Project Director, Thrive Penobscot/MRH; Peter Jamieson, Town Manager, Town of Millinocket (Zoom); Michele McInnis, Operational Manager & Community Development Coordinator, Our Katahdin; John Marden, Resource Navigator/Millinocket Memorial Library (MML); Tom Malcolm, Safety Officer, Town of Millinocket (Zoom); Andrew Caruso LSW, Community Member (zoom); Diana Furukawa, Director of Millinocket Memorial Library, Robin Stevens, Project Assistant Thrive Penobscot/MRH.

Purpose Statement: *The Millinocket Age-Friendly Committee advocates for services, supports and infrastructure that meets the needs of our residents in all stages of life. (Adopted 3.16.22)*

Welcome

Approved meeting minutes from December 5, 2023.

1. Snow Down Planning Updates: (Robin Stevens)

- First planning meeting is scheduled for this Thursday, January 1, at 10 am at library.
- Robin developed a budget of approximately \$800. Some items may be donated so the cost of the event will most likely be less than \$800 based on supplies donated in previous years.
- Peter reminded us the Town has tax-exempt status to use for purchasing of supplies.

2. Discussion on MCOA Grant opportunity:

- Jane explained the **Connection, Health, & Equity through Food (CHEF) Grant Program** <https://www.agefriendlycommunity/chef/>
 - Looking for thoughts from members on this opportunity.
- Previously met with MML staff on food resources in the area and the gaps. Jane shared a handout created with known food resources – asked for input on what was missing.
- It is known that our local Hannaford has food that is going to waste due to no one being able to pick it up daily. How can we help solve this problem?
 - Jane has reached out to Sally, Store manager, to set up a meeting to better understand the issue. Waiting to hear back on meeting date.
- Planning to start a food council that includes churches in the Tri-Town Area, food pantries, schools, Hannaford, banks, social workers, MML Resource Navigator, organizations (Elks, Masons, Knights of Columbus etc.).
 - Will form a sub-group to work on who should be invited.

- Idea was shared to host a Community Conversation on Food Insecurity in collaboration with the library.
 - Maybe hold more than one in different venues.
 - Invite community members to discuss what they see, do, different resources that are available, experiences, ideas, etc.
 - Diana shared that Tracey Perry of the Katahdin Collaborative has interest in establishing Community Meals for socialization, etc.
 - Jane will connect with Tracey to see how we can work together.
- Andrew stated EAAA's Meals on Wheels (MOW) program is not reaching as many people as it should, misconception on what the program is and what is provided. (He is speaking as a former employee of EAAA and current volunteer)
 - Promotion of the program and pride is a big issue.

3. Member Updates:

a. Millinocket Memorial Library

- Planning for preventative programs throughout the year
 - Penquis LIHEAP Sign up, Tax Aide, Identifying scams, open enrollment, etc.
- Looking at collaborations, initiatives, projects, and programs that the library can get involved in.
- Looking at part of the Age Friendly Action Plan and what makes sense for the library to be a part of within the next year (Food Council, Handy Helpers).
 - Asking for input on where to put their energy.
- Looking for other resources for heating assistance - Urgent Need

b. Elks Christmas Party for Seniors (recap)

- Christmas party went well with the distribution of the Rice & Bean Packets. Barbara, Jane and Andrew were involved.

c. Affordable Connectivity Program

- Michele shared a resource she recently became aware of – wondering how to get information out about the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) as it has a \$30 monthly discount. <https://www.fcc.gov/acp>
- Diana was aware of it and knows its chronically underutilized. The Digital Equity Center has offered classes at MML with his information, but no one signs up for them. Diana wondered how to market informational classes to reach people and draw them in as it is an ongoing challenge.

4. AF Millinocket:

- Tom, Robin and Michele will be attending the Lifelong Maine Master Class offered through AARP Maine and the UMaine Center on Aging.

5. Next meeting date - Tuesday, February 13th, 2 pm at MML

- Proposed future meeting dates: March 12, April 9, May 14

6. Adjourn