



Age Friendly Millinocket

Meeting Minutes

December 5, 2023

2:00pm/ Millinocket Memorial Library/Zoom

Meeting Attendees: Jane Danforth, Age-Friendly Committee Chair, Project Director, Thrive Penobscot/MRH; Robin Stevens, Project Assistant, Thrive Penobscot/MRH; Louis Pelletier, Town Councilor; Barbara Riddle- Dvorak, Community member; Peter Jamieson, Town Manager, Town of Millinocket (Zoom) ; Jonathan Cote, Fire Chief, Town of Millinocket (Zoom); Michele McInnis, Operations Manager & Community Development Coordinator, Our Katahdin (Zoom); John Marden, Resource Navigator/ MML; Nicole Brennan, Assistant Director MML; & Susan D'Alessandro, Community Member (Zoom).

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 11/2/2023.

1. Finalized plans for the December 10th Elks Senior Christmas Party Meal Packet Distribution

a. Rice and Bean Packet Distribution

- Barbara is still planning to be present. Jane will be there too.
- Jane will follow up with Andrew Caruso who had expressed interest.
- Jane will be responsible for getting the meal packets to the Elks that day.
- Jane will also bring the flier for the packets along with bags.

2. Katahdin Snowdown 2024 pre-planning

- Snowdown is typically held during school vacation in February.
- Katahdin Snowdown is part of Winterfest and is an Age Friendly Committee project.
- A possible date would be Sunday the 18th, more information will be forthcoming.

Ski Tow will be a 2025 town project.

- It is planned to be installed before the winter of 2025.
- The ski tow area will still be accessible for sliding this year.
- Plans are to have the area groomed to make sliding conditions better.

3. Maine Community Foundation (MFC) transportation grant (in partnership with Penquis Lynx) utilization update

a. “Transportation for All” (Name of grant funded project):

- Summary of the project and how it started was provided.
- Penquis provided data for the report.
- A big **shout out** to Brittany who played a big part in creating the report.
- The grant funds are to pay the client fare(s) for residents in the tri-town region who use Penquis Transportation. (Millinocket, East Millinocket, and Medway.)
- It tends to be heavily used by Millinocket residents.

Use of transportation provided via Penquis since 2021 snapshot:

- The 2023 data shows that 62 Millinocket residents used Penquis Transportation, 20 from East Millinocket, and 5 from Medway
- A goal is to double the number of distinct clients by the end of the grant year of May 2024. More emphasis is needed to make local people know about free transportation options.
- Page 3 of the report breaks down the trips by age group and it shows a wide range of ages.
- The data also shows that 60% of users are 50 years and older.
- Most trips that are scheduled are for the purpose of shopping, medical appointments, methadone clinic and others, which may include hair appointments, church, and social activities etc.
- Pick up times of scheduled rides varies from 5am - 5pm
- Two programs that our grant funds is General Transportation and the New Freedom Grant (self-declared disability)
- Originally the grant covered just the General Transportation fares (Lynx set bus schedule) and then after the pandemic was expanded to include rides covered under Penquis’s New Freedom Grant program M-F (riders don’t need to know the funding source- only the Penquis staff needed to know how to code it)
- There was an increase in participation after adding the NFG but advertising this program had increased too.

Jane encouraged everyone to read through the report and let her know of any typos or if there is something that needs to be clarified so she can correct it before submitting it to the Town Council.

4. Member Updates

a. Millinocket Memorial Library (John Marden - Resource Navigator)

- Busy handling heating fuel calls
- Assisting with MaineCare sign up and SNAP enrollment.
- Referrals to General Assistance
- Partnership with Penquis on LIHEAP with over 100 in-person sign ups (very successful)

b. Our Katahdin (Michele McInnis)

- Started a new initiative for our area partnering with Christmas Tree Santa's, an organization from Southern Maine.
<https://www.christmastreesantas.org/about-us/>
- Started with 50, gave away 37 still have 13 trees left to be given out.
- All the tree decorations, stuff animals for the kids, and a gift card to Hannaford are included.

C. Sand Bucket Program (Johnathan Cote – Millinocket Fire Dept)

- MFD started delivering sand buckets last week.
- Calling from the list used from last year.
- A few issues of folks being demanding of wanting the sand buckets when they want them and not being cognizant of the FD time.
- Working on finding the right time two days a week to resupply the sand buckets.
- At this time, they have enough sand buckets and do not need anymore.
- They haven't done any promotion of the program but welcome the idea.
 - Jane to provide the flyer from last year to Jon.

d. Farmers Market (Barbara Riddle-Dvorak)

- Currently on Winter break
- Plan is to reconvene after the Holidays.
- Goals would be to reach out and get more vendors, advertising, and support from the town.
- Working on a logo for the farmer's market

5. Next meeting date-Tuesday. January 9th, 2pm at MML

6. Adjourn