



# Age Friendly Millinocket

Meeting Minutes

May 14, 2024

2:00pm

Millinocket Memorial Library/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)*

Present: Louie Pelletier, Town Councilor, Randy Jackson, retired PA , co- founder of Breaking the Cycle, founder of Boreal Theater, Johnaton Cote, Fire Chief, Town of Millinocket; Amber Wheaton, Community Initiatives Director, Town of Millinocket; Nicole Brennan, Assistant Director Millinocket Memorial Library; John Marden Programs and Research Coordinator MML; Tom Malcolm, Code Enforcement Officer and Health and Life Safety Officer, Town of Millinocket; Barbara Riddle- Dvorak, Age Friendly Committee Volunteer and Farmers Market lead; Mike Carroll, EAAA Community Ambassador(to Lifelong Communities) and Jane Danforth, Chair Age-Friendly Committee/ Thrive Penobscot Project Director.

Meeting minutes from March 12, 2024, were approved. (no meeting in April)

## **2024 Farmers' and Artisans' Market Update provided by Barbara.**

- 1) Dates set (July 6- Oct 12<sup>th</sup> except for Sept 14 for Trails End Festival). Barbara is reaching out to Vendors. Waiting for new logo to use with branding. Suggestions for revisions to the initial version were sent to Designlab. Waiting for version 2 to consider so we can use it in marketing material.
- 2) A blurb Barbara wrote and read (for committee approval) will be included in the upcoming Town Newsletter.
  - Tom asked that Age-Friendly Millinocket be used in the opening sentence instead of “the Town”. Also asked to clarify the cost for food trucks so it was clear there was an additional cost aside from the \$40 market fee.
  - Barbara will make the edits and send it to Amber – the piece can also be used for a newspaper article/press release as it was very comprehensive and informative.
- 3) Farmers Market mini-grant opportunity (\$500) available- deadline 5/31
  - <https://www.farmcrediteast.com/about/community-support/Grants-and-Awards/Farmers-Market-Grants>
  - Was suggested that extra rain canopies would be a good item(s) to ask for. Something easy to put up for those vendors that don't have one.
  - Wayfinding signage and portable signage are other items we need.
  - Jane reminded the group that we do have funds still available through the town for those items we need and aren't able to get through grants.
  - Barbara and Amber will meet later this week to look at the grant application and discuss signage and other needs.

## **File of Life Community Initiative in Collaboration with Millinocket Fire Department.**

- Jane has turned over the initial 50 File of Life packets to Jon and will be getting 250 more from Patricia Oh in the beginning of June. So, 300 free copies will be received in total thanks to AARP Maine and Maine Center on Aging [File of Life](#).
- It's a refrigerator magnet File of Life holder and a pocket/purse/wallet file.
- Also provided by AARP Maine and Maine Center on Aging is a one-pager on the importance of File of Life and instructions to filling it out. Jane is making 300 copies to accompany each packet given out.

Jon said his plan was to work with the Elks and the Library to set up an event(s) in July or later to kick off the initiative. Very busy in June so would be looking to do something after that. Also plan to have them on hand in each ambulance to give out on calls as appropriate. Will educate people that aren't transported and could help people fill them out when in the homes if assistance in doing so is needed.

Jon shared that people that have advanced directives, or a living will and include it with this document, that EMS can use that information when responding to a call. It's a big thing for EMS if they don't have the knowledge (proof) of these directives, they do have to provide life safety measures in instances that might not be the wishes of the patient.

- Jon had put out a teaser on the Fire Dept Facebook Page- about these "coming soon" and got a great response.

## **Community Garden Update provided by Jane.**

- Amber put a notice out of Facebook that plots were available. Forwarded any responses on to Jane to follow up.
- 8 of our 10 plots have been reserved to date.
- Volunteer interest has grown! Have 2 primary volunteers that will maintain the grounds in and around the garden this year. Plans to weed whack, do some painting, make a new sign with children from the library, plant some fresh flowers, etc.
- A foot pump will be ordered so people can get water easily from the stream.

## **MML Teen Lounge Grand Opening (held 5/3 at 5pm) report out by Nicole.**

On May3rd, official teen lounge grand opening. It was made possible through an AARP Challenge grant procured by Barbara. They were able to make use of unused space. Nicole talked with teens to find out what they wanted and was able to accomplish their "wants" in setting up the room. Youth helped paint, move large number of books, helped set up furniture and took ownership of the space. Have been using the space since January – and since that time- the number of youth using the youth lounge has grown. They are treating their new space well.

## **Member Updates**

- 1) John (MML) Mental Health First Aid training is being held at MML on Thursday, June 13 from 9am – 5pm. John will share the flyer – contact info is on the flyer to register.

Identifying and responding to mental health issues. University of Maine is providing the training.

- Resource Navigation is being rebranded as the MML Help Desk. No longer providing direct aid (like heating fuel and food) but can help with signed up for Penquis, finding food pantries and a handyman, etc. John will be at the Help Desk doing resource navigation.
- 2) Barbara asked Jane if the Lynx grant is being renewed? (She was referring to the grant that Thrive Penobscot/ MRH secured to cover the cost of customer fares for riders living in the tri-town area for those using the Lynx.) Unfortunately, it is not, it will run out in the next couple of months and riders will be responsible for their own fares unless another funding source is secured.
    - Penquis services are going to change in the near future as they weren't awarded the grant funding they usually get. There will be a new contractor taking over- details are not known but we will be learning more soon. There is concern about how this will impact those currently using the transportation service.
    - Forming a transportation subcommittee was discussed as it's an ongoing need. John shared that Tracey Perry from the Katahdin Collaborative has mentioned this as well providing an opportunity to collaborate.
    - Mike wondered if any of the funding through the Community Connector pilot program could be used for the transportation costs we were discussing. It's something we can look in to.
  - 3) Randy shared that they have a summer program at the Boreal Theater with many nice shows coming up. The donor night is on May 24<sup>th</sup> followed by a Blue Grass Festival the next day, all being held at the Millinocket Heritage Plaza.
  - 4) Randy spoke about the upcoming "Hopeful" art project he will be collaborating with the Town on to bring to fruition. Boreal will be the fiscal sponsor for the project. Jane was involved in a meeting with Amber and other town officials when Charlie Hewett was in town to talk about the project that involves installing a colorful sign (artwork) with the words "Hopeful" on top of the municipal building. Will start fundraising for this soon as it costs about \$60k. More information will be coming soon to share.
    - <https://www.charliehewittstudio.com/>
  - 5) Key aspects Mike wanted us to know as he starts his new role with EAAA. First, no funding flows through him and second communication will be key. He wants to make sure residents of the area know what EAAA has to offer them. Will be working closely with our committee and plans to attend our meetings going forward. He is charged with working with Age-Friendly Communities in his new role. We are looking forward to collaborating.
  - 6) Amber asked if the Age-Friendly committee would be willing to split the cost with the Events committee (\$500 is the ask - total cost \$1000) for the band Marionette (an Aroostook County Band) that will be playing July 6<sup>th</sup> during Independence Day festivities.
    - Tom made a motion to sponsor the Band Marionette in collaboration with the Events Committee, in the amount of \$500, Jane seconded. Passed 4-0 (Randy, Louie, Jane and Tom present)

Next Age Friendly meeting is set for June 11 at 2pm at MML.

Adjourned at 2:51pm