



Age Friendly Millinocket

Meeting Minutes
November 12, 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)

In attendance- Jane Danforth, Age-Friendly Committee Chair, Project Director, Thrive Penobscot/MRH; Diana Furukawa, Director of Millinocket Memorial Library; Barbara Riddle-Dvorak, Community Member/Volunteer; Louie Pelletier, Committee Vice Chair, Town Councilor; Tom Malcolm, Code Enforcement Officer and Health and Life Safety Officer, Town of Millinocket; Johnaton Cote, Fire Chief, Town of Millinocket (Zoom); Amber Wheaton, Community Initiatives Director, Town of Millinocket (Zoom); Michele McInnis Operations Manager & Community Development Coordinator, Our Katahdin; John Marden, Program and Resource Coordinator, MML and Sue Bouchard, Community Member/Senior Checkin Maine Representative.

Welcome

Meeting minutes from October 8, 2024, were approved.

Farmers' and Artisans' Market Wrap Up meeting report out

- The market is on life support--people who come love it, but we need anchor farmers, volunteers and activities for children/families.
- Barbara and Tracey Perry have signed up to attend a Farmers Market Training course to be held by Maine Farmers' Market Association. 10 workshops are offered in total. (Later learned that Beth Leplante, an artisan vendor, signed up for the course as well)
- It was suggested that unless we find some food vendors, people won't come to the market.
- If a go next summer, July 4th is optimal, ending on the Saturday before the Trails End Festival. Saturday morning still feels like the best time, but we could do a survey....

Snowdown Planning for Feb 2025

- Robin Stevens will lead the effort again this year -is planning to talk with Cody McEwen, recreation director, to see how to best collaborate.
- The date typically falls on the first weekend of school vacation week.

Sand Bucket Program discussion with Chief Cote

The Chief shared a few concerns and wanted to take a different approach.

- Some community members demanded buckets be delivered when they called, and were not always nice to crews if they couldn't get the buckets when they requested them. Some would ask for these weekly or bi-weekly.
- Call volume has doubled, and they can't dedicate time like they once did to this program.
- Felt they could still house the buckets at the Fire Station and people pick up buckets at the Fire Station. But knowing that wouldn't work for all that needed them, reached out to Tom to see if there was any interest in his role as Code Enforcement/ Health and Safety Officer to partner with them to deliver buckets.
- Tom Malcolm said "yes" to this solution and will make sure this program continues. He will make deliveries for those that need delivery and the option to pick up at the fire station still remains.
- Michele offered to help recruit additional volunteers for delivery, if need be.
- Jane will update the flyer with Tom's work number for people to call to request a bucket.
- Tom plans to kick it off for December 1st
- Have about 20 buckets on hand, if more are needed, Tom will reach out to Tractor Supply. They've donated in the past and would likely again.

Member Updates

- 1) Michele shared information about the Christmas Tree Santa project that is underway in collaboration with the Town. Date is Dec 1st for giveaway/pick up
 - Information is being circulated through Facebook.
 - Have 50 trees to give away, currently have 25 spoken for
 - Not just focused on families in need, this project is for all ages
- 2) Amber shared that on December 22 there will be a Festival of Lights parade starting at 4pm from the High School down Penobscot Avenue.
 - Santa and his elves will be at the hut in Veteran's Park until 6pm.
 - Still in early planning stages so if anyone has any ideas for this event, reach out to Tom or Amber.
- 3) Barbara shared that as a result of the documentary that was shown at Boreal Theater called "Hope", it is now a drop off spot for donations for the Bangor Area Homeless Shelter.
 - Barbara will be at the Internet Café (Boreal Theater) on Thursday -Saturday 10-3pm. Have 2 big boxes- for either new socks and underwear or gently used winter coats, mittens, gloves, hats and scarves. There is flyer circulating promoting this effort.
 - Diana mentioned they have some items at the library- socks, hats, gloves, handwarmers provided by the First Congregational Church for people to take what they need.
- 4) Barbara shared that an Age-friendly Improv Theater Group is starting up at Boreal Theater on Saturday, December 14th - \$2.00 a class - 10 workshops in total. Will be really fun! Also, lots of other things going on at Boreal Theater- check out the schedule at <https://borealthheater.org/>
- 5) Sue shared that she is getting information out into the community about Senior Checkin Maine. Been to places like KVHC, MRH, Creative Options. Will be contacting KFI and a few other doctors' offices and will be sending out information to the churches. Soon, she will be reaching out to East Millinocket, Medway, Sherman, etc.

- Working on a mailing list now
 - Towncare provided Sue with a 1-800 number specific to Maine
 - Has had one customer so far
 - Shared a handout/flyer she created
 - Open to suggestions on getting the information out
- 6) Chief Cote shared that the Red Cross approached him in response to a couple of recent small kitchen fires. They have a one-hour home fire safety program and emergency preparedness program they've offered to conduct. He's working with Diana at MML to bring that program here.
- Currently scheduled for Jan 30th. Once that is confirmed, they will get the word out.
- 7) Jane shared that she recently attended a Justice in Motion Transportation Summit in Bangor. Moving Maine Network, who convened the summit, is looking for stories to build the case to share with the state legislature for creating a better transportation system/network.
- Diana and John felt they had stories they could share
 - Jane will share the contact information for Moving Maine

The following sentiment set the stage for the transportation discussions that happened during the summit

- *“Transportation is not just a ride, it’s not just a walk in the park; transportation is essential to how we live our lives and how we connect with our communities. Our transportation system shouldn’t leave anyone behind. We believe that a better transportation system is possible. “*
- 8) It was noted that transportation is an ongoing topic of discussion locally as well. Jane also shared that the grant funding that Thrive had to pay for Penquis Lynx customer fares had run out. She will work on a report for the next meeting to share usage data for the grant period - June of last year (2023) up until October 31st (2024).
- 9) Both Thrive Penobscot/ Jane and Millinocket Memorial Library/ John were asked to provide letters of support to Penquis for a grant they applied for and recently were awarded called: *Rural Planning Innovations Transportation Planning Grant*.
- “The grant will help Penquis identify transportation barriers, consider current and future community needs, actively engage older adults and people with disabilities, and create or strengthen multi- sector partnerships.”
 - We will keep this committee informed around our participation in this effort.
- 10) Lastly, work is still in progress to establish a Food Council. Jane and John have met and created a needs assessment document to guide conversations that will help us better understand the needs/operations of area food pantries.
- Jane will reach out to food pantries this month

The date for the next Age Friendly meeting is Tuesday, Dec 10th.

Meeting Adjourned