



# Age Friendly Millinocket

Meeting Minutes

October 8, 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; Larissa Heanssler, EAAA Community Ambassador (Zoom); Louie Pelletier, Town Councilor; Tom Malcolm, Code Enforcement Officer and Health and Life Safety Officer, Town of Millinocket; Johnaton Cote, Fire Chief, Town of Millinocket (Zoom); Peter Jamieson, Town Manager, Town of Millinocket (Zoom), Michele McInnis Operations Manager & Community Development Coordinator, Our Katahdin and Sue Bouchard, Community Member.

Meeting minutes from Sept 10, 2024, were approved.

## **Special Guest presentation, Sue Bouchard- Well Check Care Calls**

Sue shared her reason for starting a new venture and partnership with TownCare. Her whole reason is to help people. She learned of situations whereby one individual was on the floor for several days before help arrived. In another situation, when a welfare check was performed, a person was found to have passed alone. She shares her story and information about TowneCare call services on her newly established website: [Senior CheckIn Maine](#)

- [TowneCare](#) provides three types of care-call services: Live, automated and monitored check-in calls. Each plan comes with a different cost and can be individualized to meet different needs.
- Sue has the TowneCare link on her website- when people go through her, she gets a small percentage – income- for partnering with them. She is the “middleperson” with this. She wants to connect people with this resource, let community members know it’s available and that it’s a reputable, trustworthy, reliable resource.
- The company is based out of Pennsylvania, was established in 1954. Sue did a lot of research before deciding to work with this company.
- Sign up is electronic- through the website.
- Diana asked about a phone number for people to call for TowneCare for those not comfortable with navigating an online form. Sue would get one and make it available on her website.

- We talked about looking into future grant opportunities or funding sources for scholarships to help people that might not have the finances to pay for this service.
- Sue has started to share information on Facebook and has received positive feedback

Overall, the committee was pleased to hear of Sue's work in establishing this as a resource for residents, knowing it is a great need and collectively we will help her get the word out through our media outlets.

### **Grant Opportunity – Lifelong Maine Community Connections Grant in partnership with Millinocket Fire Department**

Jane worked with Chief Cote to write up a grant proposal for the Town to Submit on behalf of the committee. (Thank you, Amber and Peter, for the Town support with this application)

The original idea came from our last meeting when Barbara shared her story about a home visit from the fire chief. The request is for funding to purchase CO/Smoke Alarms, batteries and some home safety/ falls prevention items (grab bars, anti-slip rugs, flashlights etc.)

The Red Cross has a program for free alarms but there is a delay – sometimes up to 2 weeks. This funding would fill a need and allow Fire/EMS staff to provide alarms or home safety items in a timely manner. Can request up to \$10k, our application was for \$9607. The due date is October 15<sup>th</sup>, and notification of funding decisions are made on November 15<sup>th</sup>. They may award the total request or partially, or not at all.

### **Member Updates- Farmers and Artisans Market**

Barbara mentioned that Next Saturday (10/12) will be the final Farmer's Market if it doesn't rain. Were rained out this past Saturday.

She has some ideas for incentives to get more farmer involvement. It might involve writing a grant. Need to talk about it in a separate meeting – Jane will work with Barbara to have a wrap up meeting to discuss this season and plan for next year.

Maine Farmer's Market Association is doing a zoom course over the next few months over market management, Barbara applied – its free but she is waiting to hear if she got in.

Barbara would like to somehow recognize Russ Rogers who has done so much this past market season

Next year, the end date should likely be before Trails End Festival in September.

Tom shared that he had spoken to vendors that set up on Peddlers hill and they don't want to move to Veteran's Park. They like the traffic and visibility where they are. It was wondered if Katahdin Tourism Partnership (KTP) would be open to having it on their lot, on the corner of Central and Penobscot ... Downtown but more visible to traffic on Central Street.

Barabara said its fun and she likes doing this... will be working over the winter to be thinking about how to continue to improve and grow the market.

Next Age Friendly meeting date set for Tuesday, November 12 @ 2pm.