



Age Friendly Millinocket

Meeting Minutes

July 8, 2025

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)

Attendance: Jane Danforth, Thrive Penobscot/ MRH Project Director, Committee Chair; Louie Pelletier, Town Councilor, Committee Vice Chair; Tracey Perry, Katahdin Collaborative, Initiatives Director; Barbara Riddle-Dvorak, Volunteer and Former AmeriCorps Member; Michele McInnis, Community Development Coordinator, Our Katahdin; Diana Furukawa, Millinocket Memorial Library, Director; Tom Malcolm, Public Health and Safety Officer, and Code Enforcement Officer, Town of Millinocket (Zoom), Jon Cote, Fire Chief/EMA Director, Town of Millinocket (Zoom) and Peter Jamieson, Town Manger (Zoom).

Meeting minutes from June 10, 2025, were approved.

Jane gave a Community Garden update:

- 10 plots are available, so far only 3 people have expressed interest.
- Snafu on getting it out on social media at the beginning of June. Now that it's in July, people are thinking it's too late to plant. But it's ready.
 - David Eugene spent a couple hours with me weed whacking, putting down some new soil (purchased) in some of the boxes.
- If anyone is interested in adopting a plot- let me know- I'm the keeper of the list. It would be good to get something planted, even if just flowers- so it looks nice.
- Last year we had a community volunteer help maintain the area, I didn't have help this year and did the best I could. Next year, we need to get a jump on it sooner. Find a community champion.
- Tracey mentioned that perhaps the Food Council that is starting up could play a role.
 - Community Gardens can help with food security. Whether this venue is large enough to think about in those terms is worth having a discussion. Could at least be a part of the big picture.

Barbara gave a Farmers' and Artisans' Market update:

- This past weekend (7/5) was the first Market with four (4) vendors that were new and happy to be here. All said they wanted to come back. No farmer's though.
- The idea has been tossed around to rebrand the Market to "Makers Market" or just "Artisans' Market" – a more accurate description of what/who we have participating.

- No hikers this time which Barbara said was unusual.
- The music was a bonus, people really liked that.
- Had an Ad in the Lincoln News and it's on the digital sign in front of the Town Office
- People came to Barbara's Resource Table- she was able to give out MML program information as well as Help Desk info.

Age Friendly Action Plan Progress Report Status

- 1) Jane sent an email to everyone- the google link to the document as it looks now. People need to look at it, offer suggestions for accuracy and completeness. Have added pictures. Will need help with formatting.
 - Goal is to have a 3-year plan in the books by the end of this year (2025) to take us into 2026!
 - It was mentioned that after skimming over it- it shows how much we've done. A good look back and reminder that we have a lot going on. And we should continue to be aggressive in our work/actions going forward!
- 2) Question was poised – do we want to change our name from Age- Friendly Millinocket (it often gets assumed that our work is just for the older/ aging population instead of all ages across the lifespan) to something like:
 - Liveable Millinocket?
 - Lifelong Millinocket?
 - Live Millinocket?

Something along the Livability sphere. Need to discuss this. It might be fun to put out a poll to give everyone a voice. Perhaps we create a slate of options and have people vote on a new name.

- 3) Diana asked if we should consider using an outside facilitator to update this plan, determine if our purpose is still relevant, what are our goals? Or just do it (the process) internally?
 - Sewall Foundation might have resources for us to use. It would be good to figure out our role and how it fits with the Katahdin Collaborative's Initiatives in the Livability Sphere. Not to be duplicative but collaborative in our work.
 - MeHAF is another potential opportunity for funding (discretionary funding). They like to pay for strategic planning.
 - Question is – have our goals changed dramatically or are we just looking at our strategies?
- 4) We know our Action Plan would include the things we've determined are ongoing annually- that we've adopted such as Snowdown, Earth Day (Clean up) and the 5K during Trails End.
 - Need a process to decide what we focus on/prioritize.
- 5) Louie mentioned that he would like to see more work done with the Michaud Trail – would like to see field fencing on the East side to separate it from the ATV trail/ a physical barrier from the walking part. It would make it easier for Bobbi to plant too. Something to think about.

- 6) Barbara asked about the Community Plate Event (at the Elks) that was held in the past. Would like to see that happen again, it was fun! Storytelling and meal sharing. Tracey agreed that it was fun- as the Katahdin Collaborative planned that – it was a lot of work. The Community Plate folks came in and set up, so it was a huge help. It would be good to have an event like that again but need the collective resources to make it happen. Could potentially be in our Action Plan.
- 7) Discussion on how to move forward with our priorities.
- Socialization, food security, and handy helper services were all mentioned as important.
 - What areas is this committee the most primed to address? As we are not service providers? We are going to amplify and lift up all kinds of things that are “age-friendly”. But what do we want to own as a committee- what makes sense given our capacity and focus areas?
 - Tracey revisited the idea of having a facilitator to help us work through a strategic plan. She felt it would feel less prescriptive if we weren’t making all the decisions. Have general community listening and engagement sessions. The Collaborative could help us work on that.
- 8) 5K planning for the Trails End Festival, Saturday, September 13
- Michele said she’d be around, Diana will likely be available, too. Will need a few more volunteers.
 - Jane will be following up with Mickey (Lackey) and call a meeting if needed prior to the Event.
- 9) Member Updates- Tracey shared that she and Diana received a \$2000 seed grant to help with the Food Council. That’s in addition to the money already received from the Boston Feds. So have about 5-6K. Some will go towards stipends to go towards food pantry volunteers to incentive their participation.
- 10) Next meeting date set for Sept 9 @ 2pm at MML/ Zoom (No meeting in August)

Meeting adjourned at 2:46pm.