



Age Friendly Millinocket

Meeting Minutes
September 9, 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)*

Present: Jane Danforth, Thrive Penobscot/ MRH Project Director, Committee Chair; Barbara Riddle-Dvorak, Volunteer and Former AmeriCorps Member; Tom Malcolm, Public Health and Safety Officer and Code Enforcement Officer, Town of Millinocket (Zoom); Sue Bouchard, Senior CheckIn Maine; John Marden, Help Desk, MML; Peter Jamieson, Town Manager (Zoom to start mtg)

Meeting minutes from July 8, 2025, were approved. No meeting was scheduled for August.

Farmers' and Artisans' Market- Barbara gave an update -

Only one Vendor showed in Sept, and they had to cancel in the middle due to a family issue.

- Think we definitely need to rebrand as a Makers' Market or Artisans' Market. With competition from Peddlers hill, it impacts how things go. Vendors on the hill don't want to move downtown as there isn't the traffic that Peddlers Hill get. (Were 2 vendors selling vegetables on the hill this year)
 - Will have to bring this up at a later meeting to make decisions on rebranding for next season.
- Music was great- Amber showed up to visit. It was suggested that we work with Amber to revamp the flyer for the last Market to better represent the vendors that do participate.
- Barbara had a big table with lots of flyers from the library – people do like to see the resources available in the community. Barbara enjoys providing the resources and meeting interesting visitors that stop to talk with her.
- The Vendor with Goat products came twice and had lots of great products
- Barbara mentioned Chiron Farms – that maybe they'd be able to participate next year. Jane shared while they weren't here for the Market, they provided Farm Shares to Seniors through Eastern Area Agency on Aging.
- The last Market will be October 4th
- Jane thanked Barbara for sticking with it!
- The Appalachian Trail Banner is in the hut and available for Trails End.

5 K Run/ Walk Trails End Festival, Saturday Sept 13 – Jane gave update

- Mickey Lackey and Kari Richardson have donated a lot of time to this event. We couldn't do it without them and their expertise. They are putting the route down using flour (for arrows) early that morning. They will be the official timers for the runners.
- A couple more volunteers are still needed for that morning. Jane will be there at 7am setting up. Registration starts at 7:30am. Need help at a couple of intersections.
- This event has been adopted by the Committee as one of our signature events. I'm happy to be doing this again this year!

Age Friendly Action Plan Progress Report Status - Jane sent out the draft report by email and brought a few hard copies to the meeting. Needs eyes on and feedback to make it complete.

- Talked about having a workgroup meeting to go over the document to date and make decisions about what the next action plan would look like. Too hard to do in a regular meeting.
- Jane is proud of the document to date- it's about 85% done.
- Still considering rebranding, or coming up with a new name for us like Livable Millinocket, Live Millinocket, Lifelong Millinocket.
- Need to think about how the work of this group connects/overlaps with the Livability workgroup of the Katahdin Collaborative so we don't duplicate efforts but work in synergy.

Member Updates

Sue gave update- Senior CheckIn-

- She is spending a lot of time making material look more professional. Is pushing a 207 phone number -the google phone number wasn't a 207 number – so now, pushing people to call or text. "Let's connect to see what plan works best for you!" The company has provided Sue with a direct link for people to then go online and order the plan they want.
- Sue shared how pleased she was be a member of this group – she felt more connected with people. Barbara suggested that Sue come to the Market and table with her sometime.

John gave an update on MML projects

- MML has been working with Our Katahdin, the Katahdin Collaborative, several area churches, the oil companies, and Thrive Penobscot to create a campaign/fund for heating assistance. He explained that the amount of assistance available for heat has gone down (like from Penquis/HEAP), has stagnated, or just doesn't meet the need. John fields many calls from people seeking assistance. Last year we started a trial run of raising funds, this year our goals are higher ... this year we developed a Campaign called *Katahdin Strong, Keeping our Neighbors Warm*
 - A professional fundraiser has been hired by funds that were available from the Katahdin Collaborative. A logo and tagline were developed for this effort.

- People call their fuel provider directly, Prebles, Bragdon's or DeadRiver directly to make an ask for assistance – and can get 50 gallons of oil delivered at no cost to them.
- Tracey of Katahdin Collaborative is tabling at the Trails End Festival to create awareness about the fund- and has a raffle for people to purchase tickets and the proceeds will go in this fund.
- Donations can be made by going to Our Katahdin's website – to donate – as OK is the fiscal agent for funds coming in. <https://www.ourkatahdin.com/support/community-projects/>

Next meeting date was set for October 14@ 2pm at Library

Adjourn