Age Friendly
Millinocket
A COMMUNITY FOR ALL AGES

Meeting Minutes
July 14, 2026
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, AF Chair, Project Director Thrive Penobscot/MRH; **Tracey Perry**, Initiatives Director, Katahdin Collaborative; **Michele McInnis**, Community Development Coordinator, Our Katahdin; **John Marden**, Help Desk, Millinocket Memorial Library; **Anna Jensen**, Director, Millinocket Memorial Library; **Mellissa Crocco**, Community Volunteer; **Grace Brown**, Community Initiatives Director, Town of Millinocket; **Tom Malcolm**, Code Enforcement Officer and Health and Life Safety Officer, Town of Millinocket (Zoom); and **Peter Jamieson,** Town Manager, Town of Millinocket (to start Zoom)

Welcome

1) June 9 meeting minutes were approved.
2) Handy Helper Workgroup Meeting update:
   - The form for volunteer recruitment has been finalized- there will be a paper /hard copy and an electronic version available. Grace will get website info to Designlab.
   - Launch date for volunteer recruitment to go "live"- July 22 and July 24th.
     - July 25- town newsletter will go out with information, will get it to the newspaper for the following week.
       - Jane to get it to the paper- ask Shelley Farrington to do a write-up for us
     - Use social media -ask partners to share the Town's post- The Katahdin Collaborative, the Library, Our Katahdin, Thrive Penobscot, etc.
     - Send an email to Churches with information to share
   - Need to continue to meet to talk about our process/ admin structure – program coordination, once we have volunteers in place, how to deploy the volunteers, who is going to maintain the list, etc.
     - Mellissa suggested we look back and see how it was done when Mobilize Katahdin started. They had established a process for volunteers.
     - Tracey asked about training of volunteers- she suggested talking with Dan Rogan at the Gear Library, he might be a good resource for best practice.
     - We do need someone to check the google form responses, respond to volunteers with the background check form and town liability waiver- and follow up with the person once East Millinocket Police Department has completed the background check.

        - According to Tom, it's a state of Maine check, not a national/ federal check (that is more costly). It's what is used for Rec Department.
        - If a person has already done a background check for the Town, wouldn't have to do another one. It does have to be done annually, though.
    - Need document with Volunteer Do's and Don'ts and decide what frequency we will do training.
    - There is a Town volunteer application form that is relatable – that we can use- need to add Age-Friendly Handy Helper Program as one of the options.
    - Any minors would need to be paired with an adult. If there are kids doing outdoor work for Community Service hours, we will have a process in place for that.
- John shared that he had written a press release, a blueprint for a rack card for the program, a radio script and a wish list for website stuff. He's sending it to the workgroup for review.
    - For a PSA on the radio, it would be free. Printing a rack card would require funds or in an in-kind donation.
- Question: Any reason to run things by the Town's legal counsel? The manager felt that if we use the Town's current volunteer form, it should be all set.
    - Grace will make the needed additions to the current form.

3) Announcement – Great News!
    - Age Friendly Millinocket has been selected to receive the 2026 Beacon Community Award from AARP. The award recognizes organizational and individual excellence in serving older adults.
    - We will be recognized with the award at the AARP Maine's Annual Meeting, October 6th in Bath at the Maine Maritime Museum. We can take a group (up to 6 of us) – so please speak up (tell Jane) if you'd like to attend!

4) Member Updates:

Katahdin Collaborative:

- Tracey thanked John for contributing to a regional calendar that has been created- it's a one stop shop. Is asking partners to input events They are planning to do a podcast.
- Working on Food Insecurity Initiatives with Nicole Brennan at MML
    - Got a small grant from the Maine Council of Food Councils. Will use that funds to move some things forward with the Community Garden and with the Granite Street School Garden(s). Cass Stewart is helping with the school project.
- Is working on transportation as well. Have a MOU with Sierra Club for Transit to Trails work. Transportation to outdoor spaces as well as workforce transportation.
    - How do we move older people around that want to socialize as well as to get to the grocery store?
    - There is a transportation plan (on paper)- Sierra Club is offering technical assistance right now but will help with getting funding in the future!
- Heating security – got $1500 from MDF for Paige- the consultant that helped us get money for the last heating season. Her work will continue to support the region.

- Tracey attended a KHEC meeting (Katahdin Higher Education Center) – shared that since UMA left- they are looking for funding to fill the gap to continue to serve the region.
    - A construction academy is happening there- open to anyone. Can learn to be a contractor through the Maine Construction Academy and Eastern Maine Community College.

Millinocket Memorial Library:

- John mentioned several programs going on right now for socialization. Senior Coffee Talks, History buff roundtable, a chair yoga program for seniors, a mahjong group and a crochet group.
- Summer hours are in place with evening hours on Tuesdays and Wednesdays – open until 6:30pm.
- A summer reading program just kicked off. There is also a new adult summer reading program they are piloting this year.
- Penquis LiHEAP meetings will be held at MML again this year. (Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program) This is good news for our residents- in person appointments.

Community Garden:

- The garden looks great!! All the plots are spoken for. Have a great group of volunteers helping to keep it looking good.
- Still working on a watering system.
    - The tanker the fire department has doesn't have a long enough house to reach- to fill the barrel.
    - The two barrels there have holes, need patching. Tom was going to check with the Water Company- he thought one was supposed to be dropped off- without holes.

Summer Concert Series:

- Starts this Friday, July 17-then every Friday until September 4th from 6-8pm in the park. Maine Community Foundation is the funding source.

Jerry Pond Project Update:

- Jane has been attending meeting with the SUFU group. Another meeting is coming up this coming Thursday (7/16). They are planning a community meeting in August – have a draft flyer that will be shared with the group- tentative plan is for an August 13 at 1pm at Jerry Pond for a Community Conversation right at Jerry Pond.
- Tracey suggested that they come to the Collaborative meeting in September. Jane will connect Tracey to this group.

Next meeting date(s)

- September 15 - 2pm at MML - No August Meeting

Adjourn