

Age Friendly Committee Minutes

January 10, 2024 on Zoom

Present: Maggie, Marianne, Deb, Marge, Ed, Elaine

Absent: Eric J.

Old Business:

Approved Minutes of Dec 13, 2023 minutes

Readfield U:

The March calendar is filling up with many interesting learning opportunities. There are still a few programs that have to be nailed down. Once the calendar is set, Maggie will set up packets of posters and flyers to be distributed by all of us according to the sign up list that was created today.

It was decided that we will not be scheduling a Potluck dinner this year.

Maggie also described what a labor intensive process organizing Readfield U has been for these last 2 years and perhaps going forward we can develop a subcommittee of volunteers to work on this.

New Business:

I. Maine Community Foundation Grant

Melissa Small (Readfield Community Librarian) has generously offered her time to submit a grant application from Readfield Age Friendly Committee on behalf of the Town of Readfield.

A wish list of items that would support the many activities of the Community Café and Readfield U was compiled:

A microphone/headset. This could be used for any program the committee sponsors as well as Readfield U and the Community Cafe. Several of our program participants have varying degrees of hearing loss making it difficult to participate. This would be an important step towards increasing accessibility.

Funds for materials to be provided to presenters at Readfield U (eg. art and craft supplies)

Printing and publicity. Readfield U has a website to maintain . Hundreds of flyers are printed each year, and dozens of posters for Readfield and surrounding communities, including Winthrop, Fayette, Mount Vernon, Manchester, Wayne, Augusta and Hallowell.

Signage for both programs

Refreshments - coffee, tea, edibles, coffeemaker and tea kettle.

Possibly rental of the Vestry for the Community Café and other AFC activities during the summer months.

Canvas tote bags to use as Welcome bags for new residents

Clear nametag holders for the Community Café and AFC activities

Lightweight folding chairs for outdoor events

Lightweight easy to carry plastic tables for outdoor events.

II. 2024 AARP Livable Communities Rural Lab Application

Everyone agreed that with all the activities that AFC is currently working on, it is not possible to take advantage of this particular grant opportunity as the application deadline is Jan 19, 2024.

III. AFC role in developing Emergency Response community support.

Unfortunately, due to the chaotic weather events today, the meeting with Sean Goodwin from the Kennebec County Emergency Response agency was rescheduled for the Feb 14, 2024 AFC meeting at 10 am. However, a discussion ensued and the committee agreed that this is a very important topic that we want to pursue. In addition to learning more from Sean Goodwin, we will try to reach out to Manchester and Mount Vernon to learn what is going on in our neighboring communities.

Elaine reported that there have not been any responses to the ad regarding a Calling Tree that has been in the Readfield Messenger for the last 2 months. Maggie suggested that we learn more about a program called Nextdoor which has contacted some Readfield residents to gauge interest.

IV. Indoor Walking at Maranacook;

This will be available Monday- Thursday from 3:30 -8:30 pm. Each loop through the hallways represents ¼ mile.

Meeting adjourned 10:15

Respectfully Submitted,

Elaine