

Minutes
Age Friendly Committee
September 13, 2017 8:30am

Present: Marjorie Ellis, John Moran, Marianne Perry, Romaine Turyn, Eric Dyer for part of the meeting

Excused: Ann Mitchell

The meeting was called to order at 8:40am by the Chair, Romaine Turyn.

Announcements:

Romaine shared that she drafted and Eric Dyer made considerable additions to a grant application submitted to AARP.

Over 22 applications were submitted from Maine and only 4 were awarded.

Unfortunately, Readfield was not selected.

Given how much work Eric put into the application, we are hopeful another opportunity will become available for us to resubmit the application.

Romaine led a small but enthusiastic group on the Readfield Trails for heritage Days. The walk was preceded by a short history provided by Dale Potter Clark. Thanks to Marianne and Marjorie for baking cooking and brownies. Romaine provided the water. Leftovers were shared with those working at the Union meeting House and the Library.

The annual Age Friendly meeting was held at the Elks Club in Augusta on September 12th. Romaine attended and felt it was a worthwhile meeting to hear updates from various towns. She also had T-Shirts to distribute that she was given at the meeting.

The Aging Summit is scheduled at the Civic Center in Augusta for September 20th. Romaine was asked to be on a panel and to represent a town that was a more recent Age Friendly Community.

A telephone conference call is scheduled for September 28th to discuss with other communities and the Masons, a Volunteer Handyman Program. Romaine plans to participate with Eric Dyer and Ed Dodge from the Masons. Other members are encouraged to participate.

Romaine announced that AARP suggested and offered that the Town of Readfield could borrow a tool kit from another community. While members did not feel it ideal, all agreed it would be a start and a great way to see how well received it is by community members. It'll provide useful information to determine if we might want to purchase one. Members brainstormed rolling it out and demonstrating the tools at the Senior Café and then moving it to the Town Office and a presentation before the Select Board.

John Moran announced that the KVCAP bus now goes to Mt. Vernon. John agreed to follow up to see how often the bus goes to Mt. Vernon and to see if he could find out how many people actually ride the bus.

The Age Friendly Committee received a constituent request regarding snow plowing on the Town Roads. The Committee discussed this request. John Moran agreed to call the resident and explain the reasons why we could not achieve the solution requested.

Romaine distributed Age Friendly stickers and copies of the Resource List with and without magnets. Members took copies to distribute at various locations around town.

The Full Resource Directory template was distributed again. Committee members agreed it would be useful to complete eventually. Members agreed to work on it on their own and then one copy will be compiled.

Eric joined the meeting. He endorsed the idea of having the tool kit at the Town Office. He also added that that he and the Select Board continue to have interest in tax relief for seniors who have lived in town and who meet certain income guidelines. This idea will be included in the Town Warrant and voted on by the entire town at the Town meeting. Eric also talked about the Homestead Exemption available and his concern that residents may not be taking advantage of it on their income taxes.

The Committee discussed priorities. Property Tax Relief is a long term issue to work on. Short term, the Committee will work on developing a Handy Man Service and the Sand Bucket Program again this winter.

The members confirmed that meeting once a month was adequate. The next meeting was confirmed as the second Wednesday in October 11th.

The meeting adjourned at 10:30am