

Minutes of Age Friendly Committee - May 10, 2023

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

Regrets: Eric J, Steve

Guest: Melissa

Old Business:

Continuing Senior Café at the library – Melissa joined us for this conversation. The feedback from Marianne, Deb and Margaret (who have been attending the Senior Café) was that although participants expressed the desire to still have the social nature of the café, they do not want to commit every Tuesday in the summer.

On the other hand, Melissa is seeing the influx of summer residents coming into the library and she has grant money to support this type of outreach. The conclusion of the conversation: Melissa will offer, with the help of AFC members and members of the library board, a “Drop-in Social Time at the Library” on Tuesdays from 10-11 am from June 20- Aug 22. If we can each commit to one Tuesday we can cover the needed dates. She will appreciate help for setting up drinks and muffins, etc. When the weather is nice, it will be held outside; when the weather is bad it can be held in the “ Juniors” room. We all agreed that it was worth trying. Marianne will send the current Senior Café participation list to Melissa. Melissa will create a calendar for “hosts” to sign up for the Tuesday of their choice.

Also, related to the library, Elaine and Deb donated all of the books and resources they acquired at the regional AFC meeting last week. Melissa agreed to add them to the collection.

Also, Melissa shared that she has a group of Kent’s Hill student volunteers that may be here this summer and next fall and she suggested that creating Welcome Baskets would be an excellent project for them to work on. This is a project that the AFC plans to develop but will need to reach out to other town committees and stakeholders to see what they would like to see in it. The AFC will continue to work on this over the summer.

Status of the AFC Progress Report – Romaine circulated a draft. Maggie will check with Romaine to see if edits have been made to the draft.

Readfield U Feedback – Maggie reported that all of the feedback was very positive. She will contact Dennis Price to ask to be put on the SB agenda some time after the June election.

AFC Participation in Heritage Day festivities- lots of ideas were tossed about. Maggie will reach out to Dennis about attending a planning committee meeting to get some more ideas.

Report Back on Kennebec County Regional Age Friendly meeting – Deb and Elaine attended. Deb shared some of the discussion topics. Of great interest to us is developing a Readfield Emergency Response Call List and plans for future warming center options in Readfield. Ed offered to find out if the Readfield church can be utilized

in such an emergency. Elaine will try to find out the options at Kents Hill. At the June 7 AFC meeting we will draft a sign up sheet to be available at the AFC Election table to see if residents are interested in this outreach. The fall meeting will be focusing on Housing – a complex issue. The Annual Life Long Communities Conference will be held on June 8 at the Maple Hill Conference Center in Hallowell. This conference does require registration. To register: <https://bit.ly/LCAnnConf2023>

Report Back on the Regional Transportation meeting.- Ed attended this meeting. Again, this is a very complicated issue and most discussion centers around cities and larger towns. Right now Neighbors Driving Neighbors is the most viable option for a small rural town like Readfield. Ed will investigate how we can get crosswalks painted.

Neighbors Driving Neighbors Kick-Off Event – will take place Sunday June 25, in the afternoon at the Town Office. Eric may be looking for volunteers to help with the planning of this event. AFC members will reach out to recruit more potential drivers and riders.

Readfield Fairgrounds Planning Public Meeting – Tuesday, May 16 at 6:30 pm at the Town Office. This is an opportunity to see the concept plan design and how Age Friendly input contributed to the accessibility of the design.

New Business:

AFC Outreach – Both Margaret and Deb expressed interest in stimulating more community involvement in activities. Among many ideas, everyone was enthusiastic about planning some AFC Field Trips. Since time was short, we will be discussing the many possibilities at the next AFC meeting.

Meeting Adjourned 10:30

Next meeting June 7

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine