

Age Friendly Committee Meeting Minutes

March 13, 2024 - DRAFT

Present: Eric J, Deb, Marge, Marianne, Maggie, Elaine

Absent: Ed,

Approved Minutes of Feb 8, 2024

Old Business:

Readfield U Update: Had a terrific first week with four well-attended classes. So far 78 people have registered, many for multiple programs. All 17 classes have at least 10 people registered with a current high of 46 participants in a class. Additional registrations and walk-ins are expected. The program is attracting more and more interest and Maggie was contacted by a KJ reporter who interviewed her for an article to appear in the next few days.

An issue concerning Age Friendly reserved space: Maggie was informed on Tuesday 3/12 that there was a scheduling conflict with the March 19 Readfield U class in Gile Hall and it would have to be moved to the committee room. It should be noted that the hall was reserved in January by the Age-Friendly committee, approved for the Readfield U event, and noted on the town calendar as well as being widely publicized. At that time, it was the only event scheduled for the Town Hall for the evening of March 19. The upstairs space in Gile Hall had been selected because numbers attending Readfield U classes often exceed the capacity of the committee room. In the future we hope that rather than simply overriding our plans the courtesy will be extended of having a conversation with the committee about the various needs involved. The effort involved in putting Readfield U together is huge and while appreciation and affirmation of the worth of the program has been expressed in words, actions do speak louder.

Maranacook Community Café – Continues to draw consistent attendance. Participants greatly appreciate the student programs as well as the programming provided by the committee. Discussion is underway to plan for continuing the program through the summer when the school is no longer in session. AFC volunteers plan to stock up on non-perishable items that are currently available at the school.

Handy Helper Update – Committee members assembled the magnet Resource Guides, thanks to Kristin providing us with the supplies. We will continue to make the very popular resource available at every AF event.

Updates from representatives to other town committees:

Fairgrounds Working committee- Deb and Elaine reported that the work of this committee is coming to an end as the project moves into the next phase of fundraising assuming the warrant articles pass.

Vestry – Elaine reported that the UMH/Vestry working group is developing policies and procedures for the potential rental use of the Vestry. However, this is a work in progress and the time frame for when this becomes an option is difficult to determine.

Community Programming Coordinator Draft Schedule: Elaine shared this document that estimates how this position's time will be allocated. Out of an estimated total hours of 1,388 – Age Friendly activities were listed as follows: Senior Café – Assist with programming and promotion 12 hours . Readfield U – Assist with programming, scheduling and promotion – 12 hours. This represents a total of 1.7% of the time this position is dedicated to Age Friendly activities.

Age Friendly Budget: Maggie will submit reimbursement for our website maintenance. Eric reported that to purchase mugs that would advertise Age Friendly they would be \$10 each . Everyone agreed this was too expensive. Eric J. distributed name tags on lanyards for the AF group and will see if he has a storage container on wheels. We will continue to come up with a shopping list for the café, future supplies for Readfield U, some type of tote bag and nametag holders. As for signage, Marge shared that she just purchased a sandwich board for a different organization. Everyone agreed that may be very useful for AF events. She will bring the cost information to the next meeting.

Community Resilience:

Elaine shared more detail from the Bowdoinham Project for creating a Winter Resilience Kit – what they include, costs, how they distribute these kits to the people who need it the most.

There was lots of enthusiastic brainstorming from committee members as to what we might want to include. We will come up with a more specific wish list of items, costs. We expect to learn a lot more about what other towns are doing at the Lifelong Communities Conference in June.

New Business:

LifeLong Communities Conference – will be held on June 3 at the Maple Hill Farm in Hallowell. Maggie and Elaine have already registered and others expressed interest in going as well.

Age Friendly Election Table in June – This may be an excellent opportunity to share our idea of creating these Resilience Kits and getting feedback from residents. We will set up a coverage schedule and what type of information we would like to share on this topic.

Meeting Adjourned 10:30

Respectfully, Elaine

Next meeting April 10.