

MINUTES
Advisory Committee for Age Friendly Bowdoinham
December 08, 2025

Committee Members Present: Mary Kelley, Karen Mayo, Lois Smith, Maureen Booth, Deb Smith, Colleen Crowley, Pam Buffington, Laura Arnold

Staff: Jason Lamoreau

Guests: Sally Cluchey, David Cornforth

I. CALL TO ORDER

Maureen established a quorum and called the meeting to order at 1:34pm.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved with the addition of the Pavillon Use Survey.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the November 10, 2025 meeting were approved.

IV. BOWDOINHAM COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

a.) Sally provided an update on BCC. She described the experience of one resident, a high school graduate who found a path to college with the help of a BCC volunteer. The student plans to attend UNE with a scholarship.

b.) There has been discussion about organizing a program that would serve to orient new residents to the various services available in town.

c.) BCC continues to assist residents with signing up for the Medicare Savings Program.

d.) A representative from Sweetser addressed the BCC volunteers, describing the services that Sweetser offers and providing some tips for volunteers as they continue to work with participants

e.) Sally met with the Sagadahoc County EMA "County Navigator, and learned more about his role..

V. Spectrum Generations Repair Program Pilot

David Cornforth introduced the committee to a pilot program that Spectrum has undertaken. The program provides funds for materials for various repairs that a homeowner might need to have done. It could work in tandem with the Handy Brigade. David went on to tell us that the program has been very successful, and that available funds for this first year pilot have mostly been spoken for. He encouraged us to still consider the program in the future, as they are hoping that state funding will be available for a second year. Jason will be David's contact.

VI. STAFF REPORT

a.) The Select board has invited all committees to the January 13 meeting to share their accomplishments and goals.

b.) The automatic door button at the entrance to the town office is now functioning properly.

c.) The town has been awarded a grant of \$64K to build an accessible trail along the newly-developed riverfront. The paved trail will lead to the new observation platform, hopefully completed by spring.

d.) Jason has begun preliminary budget plans and welcomes our input prior to submission of the first version in mid-January.

e.) Jason has been approached by some members of the fire department with the idea of an oral history project. There is one retired member in particular that has a rich history of experiences in Bowdoinham. Maureen will follow up with Carol Lenna regarding her previous talks with Mt Ararat.

f.) Yvette is asking for letters of support for upcoming grant applications, including one involving fishing access.

VII. PARTICIPATION IN HOLIDAY EVENTS

a.) **The Giving Tree** project is looking for residents and/or families that could benefit. Members should pass information on to Tina.

b.) Ice and Smelt Festival is slated for February 27-29, 2026. In an effort to combat the cold weather, Deb suggests a smelt shack be utilized on the skating pond. The idea was well received by the group, and Deb will follow up with Jim McPherson. Colleen, Karen, Deb and Lois were identified as interested in helping out with AFB's participation in the event, and plan to meet in January to discuss.

VIII. STATUS REPORTS

a.) Karen reported that the luncheon program is going well. There is some concern that capacity at the fire station may be reached soon. Limiting participation to Bowdoin and Bowdoinham residents is an option.

The Pavillon Use Survey will be presented by Yvette at the February luncheon. She is presently looking for input on Pavillon use and design.

b.) **Echo Dots** Pam has reviewed available material and outlined project objectives. Working with Mt Ararat students may be an option for this project.

Web Site - Pam is scheduled to have a meeting with the principal and Community Pathway Coordinator of Mt Ararat on Wednesday about the AFB web site. She asked about available funds and timeline considerations.

c.) **Call with Maine Health Access Foundation** Jason and Maureen have spoken with MeHAF about the unused \$8500 that had been awarded for the paramedicine program. They learned that the funds can be used for other related needs, like acquiring DME or training EMS's up to the EMT level. MeHAF asks for a report back on what has been done.

d.) Needlecraft Gathering – Lois reported that the “Needlecraft Circle” is scheduled to meet January 9 at Merrymeeting Hall. The plan is to meet every second and fourth Friday from 1-3pm. Lois will send Jason the flyer for distribution.

e.) Home Safety Deb and Maureen have reviewed different ways to go forward with developing a useful home safety assessment. They plan to select one method and continue work.

Discussion continued with Maureen mentioning that there are several AARP grant opportunities available, including the challenge grant, mini grant, and demonstration grant. One idea is to develop a plan for a welcome kit. She will be able to provide more information in January. Also, the AARP

The AARP Beacon Award that Bowdoinham received includes an award of \$1,000.

The committee saw participation at the Artisan’s Guild fair as useful and successful. A suggestion was made to have the Giving Tree available at the upcoming Bowdoinham School craft fair.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:None

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:26 pm.

Approved by:

Maureen Booth, Chair

Date

Jason Lamoreau, Older Adults Services Coordinator

Date