

# **MINUTES**

## **Advisory Committee for Age Friendly Bowdoinham**

### **July 8, 2024**

**Committee Members Present:** Maureen Booth, Ann Hartzler, Mary Kelley, Karen Mayo

**Members Absent:** Deb Smith and Lois Smith

**Staff:** Jason Lamoreau

**Guests:** Louise McCleery, Ambassador/Spectrum Generations; Anna Guest, UMaine Pilot Program Manager (via zoom); and Yvette Meunier, Bowdoinham Town Planner

#### **I CALL TO ORDER**

Maureen established a quorum and called the meeting to order

#### **II APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

The Agenda was approved as distributed.

#### **III APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The Minutes of June 10, 2024 were approved as distributed.

#### **IV COMMUNITY CONNECTOR PILOT**

##### **Status of Statewide Pilot**

Maureen thanked Anna Guest for joining the meeting to brief the committee on the goals of the statewide pilot, its current status, and the roles of the Pilot Manager and UMaine generally during its implementation. A copy of Anna's slides are attached. Several key points of discussion included:

1. Whereas the goals of the pilot are fairly broad, each pilot site is further refining its desired outcomes, target populations and strategies. For example, some pilots intend to focus on providing a central place of contact for residents to learn about available resources. Bowdoinham, by contrast, plans to conduct outreach to residents in their homes.
2. UMaine will play a critical role in supporting local Connectors through general training opportunities and through on-demand skill building specific to a pilot's focus. UMaine also will facilitate communication and information sharing across pilot sites so that pilots can learn from each other and build on one another's successful approaches. Mary commended the State for these efforts but asked for clarification on the nature of the relationship between the Pilot Program Manager and Pilot Connectors at each site given that supervision was local. Anna noted that she sees the role as more of a "thought partner" and to assist the Connector in helping local pilots to available resources.

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3. In addition to funding upfront expenses of the pilot (e.g., technology, marketing, travel, etc), pilot sites will be eligible to apply for mini grants to support activities that align with Maine’s Cabinet on Aging goals such as: affordable housing and long-term services and supports; financial security and protection against fraud; access to information, broadband, and services; and engagement and employment. Applications for the mini grant must be submitted between is September 15 – October 15, 2024.
4. Pilot sites will be required to use the data system “Assisted Rides” to document the use data on the pilot, including number and characteristics of pilot participants. Maureen reported that efforts were underway to transfer data from the Rides in Neighbors’ Cars program to Assisted Rides but wondered if there was the same expectation for capturing use data from other programs/activities loosely affiliated with Bowdoinham’s Age Friendly such as the Handy Brigade,, medical equipment loan program, luncheons, weekly games, etc. Louise suggested that at a minimum it would be important to capture referrals made to those programs from the Pilot. Maureen noted that the intention was to document all referrals from the Pilot, whether to a program sponsored by the Town or elsewhere.

#### **Status of Bowdoinham Pilot Site**

Maureen noted that the Task Force has been active in recruiting an Outreach Coordinator. Members contacted possible candidates for the who were identified by key influencers and the ad for the position has been posted at key locations in Town as well as posted to the Town website. A suggestion was made to reach out to local ministers as well as to contact the Library and Food Pantry as possible sources for candidates.

#### Followi-Up Actions:

1. The Task Force will (1) continue to meet informally with interested candidates; (2) finalize interview questions; (3) conduct formal interviews with Outreach Coordinator candidates on July 22 and submit final recommendations to the Town and UMaine; (4) submit a draft budget by August 1; and (5) finalize the Workplan by August 23 and submit to UMaine.
2. Maureen will contact Committee members to decide who would like to attend the September 5 training being sponsored by UMaine (in addition to the Town’s Outreach Coordinator).
3. Maureen will work with the Rides Program to complete the transition of data to Assisted Rides and to begin working with the Outreach Coordinator to tailor the system to the needs of the Neighbor to Neighbor program.

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4. The September AFB Committee will include discussion of options for pursuing a mini grant to UMaine.

#### V. CROSSWALK AND SIDEWALK PROJECT AT THE WATERFRONT

Maureen thanked Yvette for taking time to discuss with the Committee a proposed project at the waterfront and to discuss possible ways that members could support it. Yvette described an opportunity to pursue funding to study potential solutions to car and pedestrian traffic within the downtown block including the intersection of Main Street/Route 24 and major connectors that flow into that area such as Back Hill, Spring Street and lower Main Street. Also included in the design phase will be the design of a safe and scenic connection between the two waterfront parks across the roadway.

Yvette thanked Karen, Deb and Maureen for attending the kick-off meeting with the contractor selected to do the design and proposed several additional areas where Age Friendly could help assure that the design reflects the needs and preferences of older residents: attend meetings of the Community Development Advisory Committee (CDAC) where the design was discussed; attend the upcoming site visit with the contractors on July 17 from 10am-11:30am where they will walk through the project site; attend 2 public meetings on the draft design in August and October; and assist in sharing an online survey proposed to further solicit input on the project. Members discussed options for engaging residents who may not otherwise participate in an online survey, including the possibility of developing a paper version.

Yvette described another DOT project to extend the sidewalks further along Post Road from its intersection with Main Street to its intersection with Center Street at the Community Center/Emergency Shelter/Fire Station. The Committee offered to submit a letter of support for that funding request.

#### Followup Action

1. Ann, Karen and Maureen will attend the site visit with the design contractor from 10am-11:30am on July 17.
2. Maureen will sign a letter of support for the sidewalk extension.

#### VI. STAFF REPORT

Jason reported on the following activities since our last meeting:

- A new Code Enforcement Officer (CEO) has been hired, Jason Lorraine. The new CEO has prior CEO experience in his hometown of Boothbay.
- The Fire Chief is now a full time position and will relieve Jason from some of his scheduling duties for the Fire House.

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- The ADA boat launch is now open for use.
- The Library now has a colony of bees on display which may be of interest to our Newsletter readers.

#### Follow up Action

1. Maureen will alert Grace McCarthy about the bee colony for the newsletter.

#### **VII COMMUNITY PARAMEDICINE PROGRAM**

Jason reported that 3 members of fire & rescue completed the course to be certified as a community paramedic. Jason also noted that all signals from the Maine Health Access Foundation (MeHAF) look positive for funding of a feasibility study and operations plan for the development of a paramedicine program in Bowdoinham. One remaining step is the submittal of a budget detailing how the \$10,000 will be spent.

#### Followu Action:

1. Jason will develop a budget for submittal to MeHAF for funding of a feasibility and operational plan.

#### **VIII AFB SUPPER AT AUGUST 4 BOWDOINHAM CONCERT SERIES**

Ann thanked members for signing up for tasks but noted that all tasks have yet to be assigned. A suggestion was to send the poll out to the AFB email list. Mary noted that the crew club had greater success in not assigning a fixed price for the supper but instead to request donations. It was agreed that AFB should ask for donations instead of a fixed price.

Several remaining issues were noted: setting up and breaking down tables and chairs has not been resolved. Ann offered to contact the Fire Chief to see if they could be of assistance.

#### Follow up Action

1. Ann will solicit additional help for tasks not yet assigned ; reach out to Jan Hayward about borrowing crock pots from MMH for use at supper; and contact Chief Frizzle about help with tables and chairs.
2. Maureen will bring a 25 ft extension cord and power strip.

#### **IX. CELEBRATE BOWDOINHAM**

Without an August meeting, Maureen cautioned that a lot of planning will need to be conducted via email regarding preparing for our presence at Celebrate Bowdoinham. Karen was loud and clear that we should not display the adaptive devices nor have a multitude of trinkets on our tables. Some preliminary ideas:

- We need a new banner that is larger and more colorful. Ann offered to work with Banana Banner to design a new one and to consult with Jason on the cost allotment.
- Display our products, especially : Universal Design, Handy Brigade flyer, plastic Resource List, Rides in Neighbors Cars, AFB Brochure
- Possibly show the Nesterly promotional video at our table

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- Seating for people; possibly games/jigsaw puzzle available
- Be located with CDAC or Comp Planning with map of intended downtown design study area where people could provide input on design ideas.

Maureen reported that she was approached by Yvette to see if there was interest in providing carpooling service during Celebrate with stops at the 3 parking lots (Tourtelotte lot, Recreation field area, and new park area) and drop off at the Mason Lodge. There was strong opinion that this approach was not workable and that a better alternative was the pre-event promotion of handicapped parking by the yellow house, maybe with boy scouts staffing the area. .

#### Followup Action

1. Maureen will send out a workplan to identify and assign tasks for developing an AFB presence at Celebrate.
2. Maureen will convey back to Yvette that AFB is not in favor of carpooling but would recommend handicapped parking by the yellow building, potentially staffed by boy/girl scouts.

#### **X SUPPORTING RESIDENTS DURING POWER OUTAGES AND EMERGENCIES**

Members reviewed a concept paper distributed with the meeting packet on options for proceeding on a plan for action in this area. Mary proposed adding a #4 to Considerations: “Meet with the Fire Chief to discuss our concerns about support during outages and to brainstorm options for working together to improve the Town’s response.” Mary suggested that a small delegation reach out to the Fire Chief before our October meeting.

#### Followup Action

1. Maureen or Jason will invite the Fire Chief to a small meeting to discuss the situation and poll members on a convenient date.

#### **XI HOUSE SHARING**

It was unclear what collective action was needed on this item. Mary proposed that we display the Nesterly promotional video at Celebrate and that we share the video with members in the meantime for their ideas on how to proceed or for use by individuals to take action.

#### Followup Action:

1. Maureen will share the Nesterly link with members and pursue options for displaying at Celebrate

#### **Public Comments**

Louise shared with members 2 flyers that she hoped the Committee could help promote locally:

- *Medicare Savings Program* to help pay monthly Medicare premiums and out of pocket costs for those who qualify.
- *Times and Locations for Medicare Education 101.*

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The Committee was extremely grateful to learn about both of these opportunities. It was decided that they should be sent out to our email distribution list and further highlighted in the AFB Newsletter. Maureen voiced a more general concern that the Committee has done little in the area of Medicare education and that a closer working relationship with Spectrum Generations was one of the major benefits of the upcoming community Pilot.

Follow up Action”

1. Jason will share the AFB distribution list with Louise for distribution of the above flyers.
2. Louise will write up a paragraph on each of the above for inclusion in the next AFB Newsletter.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The Committee adjourned at 3:30 pm There will be no meeting in August. The next meeting is scheduled for 1:30 pm on September 9, 2024.

**Approved by:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Maureen Booth, Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jason Lamoreau, Older Adults Services Coordinator

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**LOUISE’S SLIDES TO BE ADDED AS ATTACHMENT**