

**MINUTES**  
**Advisory Committee for Age Friendly Bowdoinham**  
**December 09, 2024**

**Committee Members Present:** Ann Hartzler, Mary Kelley, Deb Smith, Maureen Booth, Lois Smith and Mary Kelley

**Members absent:** Karen Mayo

**Staff:** Jason Lamoreau

**Guests:** Louise McCleery, Spectrum  
Sally Cluchey, Outreach Coordinator, Bowdoinham Community Connections

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Maureen established a quorum and called the meeting to order

**II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

The Agenda was approved as distributed with the addition of:

- Washington Post articles
- Monthly e-mail newsletter

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes of November 18, 2024 were approved with clarification in Section V that Ann has offered to write an article for the January newsletter rather than act as editor long-term.

**IV. STAFF REPORT**

Jason provided the following update to the group:

- The Bowdoinham town office will be closed Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day.
- There will be a public hearing on the waterfront signage project on January 7, 6:30 pm in the Kendall Room. Committee members are encouraged to spread the word.
- Jason confirmed that the tax clinic and drug take-back will be held February 18 and March 8, from 9-2pm at the fire station. The AARP is unable to sponsor the shredding this year. Jason is contacting the shredding company directly to determine cost.
- The free Community Swim at Bowdoin College is confirmed for January 12.
- The Ice & Smelt Festival is Jan 31 - Feb 2. The committee is hosting the cookies and cocoa on Sunday Feb 2 from 1-3pm. Deb Smith volunteered to coordinate the event. The group thought that a promotional flyer and a donation can at the event are good ideas.

**V. Bowdoinham Community Connections**

Sally referenced a previously distributed report for the month of November. She updated the group on items of interest that are not included in that report:

- Carol Lenna has been recruited to join the BCC team as a volunteer event coordinator.
- Rodney Klobberdans has joined as a paid contractor to share information about BCC, and state and local resources by way of BCC's Facebook page and the [bowdoinhammer.com](http://bowdoinhammer.com) newsletter.
- Data collection is being done using Google Sheets.
- There are six volunteers presently. Contacts with 6 active participants have begun.
- The tri-fold brochure is in process.
- Various barriers to accessing services are being identified.

Sally mentioned that Anna Guest might be able to help compile resources, as she receives information from other coordinators. \

Sally is finding that not all resources actually have capacity to fulfill a need, often because of staff shortages. Before referring a participant, Sally is checking out the resource to confirm the process for accessing the service and ensuring that help is available. Alternatively, there may be other avenues to a successful outcome. Sally and Jason will continue to gather information.

After discussion about the logistics of holding office hours it was decided that Sally or a volunteer will be available at the fire station on Fridays from 12 noon-2pm, excluding holidays, to meet residents and provide information about BCC. Sandwich boards will be developed to direct residents to the fire station, and it will be promoted in the e-mail newsletter and the print newsletter. The office hours will begin in January, and after an evaluation period, perhaps two months, the committee will decide if it should be continued.

## **VI. Winter Safety**

- **Winter Safety Kits** - There will be 25 kits assembled. Some items are not yet available, and more totes need to be ordered. Jason will e-mail the committee with a date in January to assemble the kits. Jason also mentioned that **he** is working on gathering three bids for the shade structure (also covered by the mini-grant funds) and is moving forward with a spring installation date in mind
- **Outage Buddies** - Jason has emailed the potential host families requesting they complete the background check form. He has received no response, and plans to follow up with phone calls. One request for overnight shelter has been received.
- Deb Smith volunteered to be the coordinator for the first storm. She will be provided with documentation about the host families, and other resources that are available to those in need. Mary reports that Libby from the Salvation Army has clarified that the Salvation Army can provide transportation to their shelter if needed. The Red Cross is also able to provide shelter. Jason is getting phone numbers.

## **VII. Bowdoinham Estates**

Residents of Bowdoinham Estates have contacted Maureen with concerns that have arisen since a recent management transition. Jason has contacted a management company representative in PA and reports that this representative was very helpful. There is now a new contact person and a new on-site manager should problems arise in the future. Additionally, rather than continuing to use the on-site EMS lock box, which does not adhere to management's policy, a key is being given to the fire department to carry in fire trucks. Committee members remarked on being thankful that residents had reached out to Maureen. Sally is working with the Secretary of State to determine the identity of the owners of the building.

## **VIII. Speaker Series or Events at the Fire House**

Ideas for possible additional events at the fire house were floated. Maureen is looking into a presentation of the six-part series "Navigating Solo Aging," which was recently described in a Washington Post article. The committee recognized that learning more about what types of presentations are of interest will be helpful. Mary suggested that we might poll attendees of the Thursday luncheons for ideas. The next luncheon is December 12.

### **IX. Giving Tree for Older Residents**

Maureen noted that Christmas Giving Trees are typically directed at children, and that older adults may enjoy receiving gifts as well. She distributed 'gingerbread cookie' tags designed to attach to a gift. Unwrapped gifts should be brought to the town office by December 18.

### **X. Administrative Issues**

Mureen reminded the group that it had been some time since we had reviewed our long term goals or evaluated progress toward those goals. She also mentioned that we may want to review the by-laws, particularly the section on membership and election of officers. Maureen will email the group to determine a date in January or February that works for all of us to address this. Other members of the community, perhaps past Committee members, will be invited to attend.

### **XI. Public Announcements**

There were no public announcements.

### **XII. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:18pm.