

MINUTES
Advisory Committee for Age Friendly Bowdoinham
January 12, 2026

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

Staff: Jason Lamoreau

Guests: Sally Cluchey

I. CALL TO ORDER

Maureen established a quorum and called the meeting to order at 1:30pm.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved. Items were reordered in terms of priority to ensure that the most important ones were covered.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the December 08, 2025 meeting were approved.

IV. AARP CHALLENGE GRANT SOLICITATION

Maureen presented details on the AARP Challenge Grant:

- Projects must be completed by December of 2026, just five months from the June/July announcement date, so we must be well prepared should we be awarded a grant.
- There are three types available, Flagship, Microgrants, and Demonstration Grants. Details are available on the AARP web site.
- Several issues that the committee had previously identified are possible candidates for a grant application, including crosswalks and sidewalks in conjunction with the town; affordable housing; expanding on the AARP Home Fit Guide, with a possible link to the Handy Brigade; disaster planning; and a sound system for the Town Hall including assistive hearing devices.

There was group discussion on the topics, and each committee member shared their thoughts about which project seemed most important to them. The consensus was that the Home Fit Guide and the sound system with Assistive Hearing Devices were the best options. Discussion continued on the details of the Home Fit Guide project, and it was determined that next steps are to research the need and scope of the project. It was also pointed out that we should have two ideas in mind, in case something happens to the first. Deb volunteered to attend a meeting with Yvette; and Karen and Bill offered to review recommendations and strategies once developed.

V. AFB WEB SITE

Pam reported that she met with three educators from Mt Ararat to discuss how a collaboration with students might work for re-designing the Age Friendly website. The next step is for the school to solicit interest from possible students, through a weekly newsletter, individual outreach and legacy projects. Pam volunteered to act as liaison between students and the committee but agreed that it will be important to schedule opportunities for students to meet with committee members.

VI. REPORT TO THE SELECTBOARD

Nicole has invited all committee chairs to present to the Selectboard on Jan 23 meeting their accomplishments, plans for the future, and possible points of intersection with other committees. The committee reviewed the document and complimented Maureen on her work. Sally plans to attend the meeting as well and will briefly provide information on BCC.

VII. STATUS REPORT ON THE AFB AND ICE AND SMELT FESTIVAL

The festival is scheduled for February 27, 28 and March 1. AFB plans on providing hot drinks and snacks on Sunday afternoon ((3/1) at the ice skating pond. Deb is trying to get a smelt shack with a heat source brought to the pond. Deb volunteered to make cocoa, Lois is making coffee, and Maureen is making a snack. Decision on what types of snacks will be made between now and March 1.

VIII. STAFF REPORT

- Jason briefed the committee on the Riverview House project. There is a survey on line for one week to solicit feedback from townspeople.
- A resident requested snow removal; Jason contacted an anonymous source who donated funds to complete the task.
- The tax prep dates are February 28 and March 17. BCC is offering eligible taxpayers the opportunity to sign up for the Medicare Savings Program at the same time.
- There will be a children's movie shown at the Town Hall on February 28, as part of the Ice and Smelt Festival.
- The town office is closed on MLK day, January 19.
- Jason thanked committee members for Giving Tree donations. Assistance was provided to 11 families.

IX. BOWDOINHAM COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

BCC is now networking with the Food Pantry to provide services in one-time instances where BCC is not directly involved.

Sally cited several examples of the program helping individual and families long-term, also described in the monthly summary report.

After receiving training on the software, volunteers will now be able to help Sally with tracking activities. Sally is also handing off some office hours to volunteers.

Laura volunteered to explore the possibility of offering a monthly healthy lifestyle medicine program.

VIII. STATUS REPORTS

a.) The first Needlepoint Gathering went well, attended by eleven residents representing six different crafts. Thank you, Lois, for arranging this new opportunity for social connection.

b.) Maureen reported that our presence at the holiday craft fairs was a success, with three drivers recruited for Rides in Neighbors Cars.

c.) The monthly luncheon was a success. Next month Jason and Yvette will present on the Pavillion.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:None

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:09 pm.

Approved by:

Maureen Booth, Chair

Date

Jason Lamoreau, Older Adults Services Coordinator

Date