

Age Friendly Committee of Bowdoinham
Goals, Accomplishments and Points of Intersection
 Presentation to Bowdoinham Select Board
 January 13, 2026

	Points of Intersection
GOAL: Make Bowdoinham a better place to live for people of all ages, especially older residents and those with disabilities	
Major Accomplishments	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bowdoinham Community Connections (BCC) Pilot <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Secured funding for Year 2 of the pilot thru August 2026 ○ Offers 1-on-1 ongoing assistance to residents with complex financial, medical and mental health needs ○ Provides group events to those needing support (tax prep, bulky waste, clinics for completing applications, trainings, luncheons at Bham Estates) ○ Escalates issues to state when programs fail to fulfill responsibilities ○ Over 1000 hours of volunteer time in 2025. 	<p><i>All parties:</i> encouraging residents needing additional support to contact BCC</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other Support Services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Rides in Neighbors Cars: 21 volunteer drivers; 588 rides: 14.867 miles ○ Medical Equipment Loan Program: increased demand ○ Handy Brigade: working to connect program to home safety assessments ○ State/Federal Tax Prep: working to connect tax prep to potential eligibility for state/federal assistance ○ Disaster planning: winter kits; private outage buddies; RAVE 	<p><i>All parties:</i> general awareness and referral</p> <p><i>Fire & Rescue:</i> referrals into program based on home environment</p> <p><i>All parties:</i> general awareness and referral</p> <p><i>Fire & Rescue:</i> general awareness and referrals during times of emergencies</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social and Civic Activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Monthly luncheons ○ Weekly Cribbage and Bridge ○ Bi weekly needlepoint beginning January 2026 ○ Classes: Needhams, flower arranging, basket weaving ○ Additional programs will depend on volunteer leaders stepping forward 	<p><i>All parties:</i> ideas for programs</p> <p><i>Library, Comp Plan, EMS, Recreation:</i> co-sponsorship of guest speakers/events that have relevance to all ages</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Age Friendly Plan: The 3 and 10-year Age Friendly plan included in the Comp Plan serves as a foundation for our priorities and the basis for monitoring our progress. 	<p><i>Comp Plan:</i> share information and work together to develop and achieve priorities</p>

Projects in the Planning Stage	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Age Friendly Website Redesign: in discussion with Mt. Ararat High School's Community Pathway program to work with students in the design of a more interactive and accessible website. • Protocol for installation of Echo Dots: Although we have 12 sets of echo dots to install in homes, there are often challenges in doing so. We are developing a simple protocol for assessing that a household has the necessary requirements for use of Echo Dots and a process for easy installation. • Welcome Kit for New Residents: The BCC pilot has identified the value of resuming the distribution of welcome kit to new residents as a way of connecting them to services, programs and the spirit of Bowdoinham. In early stages of discussion. • Home Safety Assessments: Since Age Friendly's previous development of a guide for residents to assess fall prevention and safety in their homes, AARP has developed a Home Fit Guide that goes into further detail. We are considering how to re-introduce the guide and connect residents to the Handy Brigade for potential repairs and modifications • Community Paramedicine: Grant funds from the Maine Health Foundation to study the feasibility of community paramedicine in Bham have been re-deployed due to major changes at the state level regarding standards that make such a program challenging and costly for a small community. In addition, our partnership with Lisbon on a feasibility study has been delayed due to competing priorities. Instead, funds for intended for the community paramedicine study are being spent to upgrade our EMS system through advanced training and technology. • Improved accessibility of public spaces: The Committee continues to pursue opportunities to improve accessibility of the waterfront and pedestrian walkways and crosswalks. 	<p><i>Town Management:</i> guidelines on accessibility standards and compatibility requirements.</p> <p><i>All parties:</i> Awareness and referral into the program</p> <p><i>All parties:</i> is there agreement? What information is critical for new residents to know; best ways to identify new residents and distribute welcome kits.</p> <p><i>CEO, Fire & Rescue:</i> identification of potential referrals into the program.</p> <p><i>EMS Committee:</i> continue our partnership to identify opportunities for improved health care access to residents.</p> <p><i>Comp Planning, CDAC, Recreation:</i> identification of opportunities to work together to pursue or support initiatives and funding options.</p>
Other Opportunities for Coordination/Collaboration	
<p>Housing: Affordable housing has been identified as a priority in the Comp Plan, public forums, and informal surveys of older adults seeking to downsize. While there is universal interest, a focal point for moving forward does not exist.</p> <p>Data collection and sharing: Is there interest and value in a community-wide survey that could help advance the work of Committees?</p>	