

MINUTES
Advisory Committee for Age-Friendly Bowdoinham (ACOA)
July 13, 2020

Present: Maureen Booth, Peggy Muir, Patricia Oh, Gracia Woodward

Absent: Missy Halsey (staff)

Topic	Action
A quorum was established.	Gracia to follow up with Patty Melander about membership on ACOA. Peggy to send thank you notes to Rachelle and Alice thanking them for their service.
The May 11, 2020 minutes were approved as distributed.	
Before moving to the agenda, Gracia noted that there are two vacant seats on the Committee given term limits for Rachelle Tome and Alice Pollis. Peggy indicated that Patty Melander expressed interest; Gracia will follow up with her. Gracia encouraged everyone to continue their recruit of new members. Peggy will send a thank you notes to Rachelle and Alice for their past service.	
Updates	
Community Outreach	
Gracia inquired whether ACOA should offer grocery delivery to community members unable to do so during the pandemic. Maureen noted that Rides in Neighbors' Cars currently offers that service. Members agreed that further action was not needed on this item.	No action required.
Home Safety Checklist	
Maureen indicated that the Home Safety Checklist has been finalized. Peggy offered to write up a piece for the Town's next Newsletter about the Checklist and highlight 3-4 suggestions from the list with a link to the full document. Maureen agreed to forward the Checklist to Missy for posting on the Town's website.	Peggy will prepare an article for next Newsletter on the Checklist; Maureen to send Checklist for posting on the Town's website.
Mail Box	
Peggy announced that the Town has installed a chute on the current mailbox that allows drop-in from cars. She offered to send a note extending the Committee's appreciation for this improvement	Peggy to write thank you to Post Office
Walkway	
Peggy shared a letter written to the Town requesting that consideration be given to expanding walkways in Town to provide a longer village walking loop while improving safety. Members thanked Peggy for taking this initiative and advised her to sent to Town for consideration.	Peggy to send letter to Town requesting consideration of walkway expansion.

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Tablets for Older Adults	
<p>Maureen discussed a proposal opportunity through the Maine Humanities Council. She discussed the idea of purchasing tablets through the grant, train users on the tablet, and expand access to the humanities by creating a digital portal of local and state online events. She has made preliminary overtures to the Library which was very receptive to partner on the concept. The grant is for a maximum of \$1000 with a required match of case or in-kind contributions. Gracia noted that ACOA had access to \$500 which had been made as donations to support ACOA related activities. Patricia recommended that Gracia verify their availability with the Town.</p> <p>Peggy expressed concern that the project may be too operational and technical to be of interest to the Council. Patricia mentioned potential opportunities with the Digital Equity Center in Maine which provides training and equipment. She also mentioned that AARP was sponsoring a webinar to discuss a pilot program providing WIFI access to rural areas. No decisions have been made on the Humanities Council grant pending further discussions with the Kate Cutko and confirmation of fund availability. Patricia noted that AARP/Maine may be in a position to provide supplemental funds pending review of the final proposal.</p> <p>Discussion ensued about whether the Town would be willing to serve as applicant for the grant. Gracia agreed to contact Tom Woodin about whether the Town would consider serving as applicant with limited responsibility of accepting, disbursing and accounting for funds.</p>	<p>Maureen will continue to work with Kate on developing a concept for the proposal which advances services to older adults and also meets the Humanities Council's goals for this grant solicitation. Draft concepts will be shared with ACOA members to seek their advice and input. Meanwhile Gracia will contact Tom about serving as applicant and confirm that a draft proposal needs the review of the Select Board which is scheduled to meet July 28, 2020.</p>
New Business	
Town Budget	
<p>Patricia expressed alarm about significant changes that have been made to the Recreation Department budget which funds ACOA activity. Of particular concern was the absence of ACOA during deliberations by the Finance Committee. It was recommended that Gracia send a letter to Tom Woodin regarding our concern and interest in knowing how best to assure advance notifications in the future.</p>	<p>Gracia to contact Town about our concern over the substantial reduction in Rec Dept budget and to determine how best to get notification in the future when such decisions are made.</p>
Adjournment and Next Meeting	
<p>There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 10 at 2:30 pm.</p>	