

Age-Friendly Community Committee
Meeting Minutes
July 11, 2023
5:30 p.m.

- I. Attendees: Leroy Walker, Frank Pippin, Jan Biron, Cindy Larrabee, Diane Vincent, Tina Eugley, Belinda Gerry, Bob Cavanaugh, Amy Hatter from Community Development, Jennie Cowie and Kelly from Androscoggin Home Health and Hospice, Larry Pelletier and Chuckie, Ed Burgess, Jamie Longley and daughter, Annabelle and Mamie Ney
- II. Review of minutes of May 9th meeting. Motion by Frank Pippin to accept. Second by Larry Pelletier. All in favor.
- III. Clothing Give-Away – Leroy talked with Phil Crowell about setting a date, after Leroy meets with Glen Holmes. It will be held at the Auburn Public Library again.
- IV. Potato Give-Away – We went over budget, giving away 7, 745 lbs at a cost of \$11,610.00, but Glen Holmes agreed to pay the overage. There will be no more potatoes until the next season’s harvest.
- V. Veterans BBQ – Frank reported that 46 people attended the barbecue, and that there will be a bean supper coming up. The cost to the Age-Friendly Committee was \$242.64 for the BBQ.
- VI. The Balloon Festival will be held August 18, 19 and 20. We need volunteers. The volunteer list was circulated so people could sign up for the hours they wanted to work. Beverage prices are lower for the Coke products. We may have more of a profit this year. Poland Spring will not be giving away free water this year.
- VII. Jennie Cowie from Androscoggin Home Health and Hospice presented volunteer opportunities for their 1. Programs, 2. Thrift Stores in Auburn and Augusta, etc. Their thrift stores netted over \$300,000.00. The stores are run by volunteers. They accept donations.

Areas needing volunteers include:

- a. Hospice House – Visitor Greeters
- b. Patient Support – if patient or family members need anything
- c. One on one interactions
- d. House visitation
- e. Respite – Sit with patients so their care-giver can get away for a while.
- f. Veteran Care – Veteran will present the veteran patient with a flag, plaque, etc. to honor them.
- g. Harmony Group – Singing group which practices every Wednesday from 2:00 to 4:30. The sing for patients at 3:30. Some volunteers sing for the patients at their bedside.
- h. Bereavement volunteers – Greeting, Meetings, Phone calls
- i. Program for grieving children and teens – Mondays from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.
- j. Dragon Fly camp for kids who have lost a loved one.
- k. Butterfly release to be held on July 29th

Leroy thanked Jennie for the wonderful presentation. Jenny will be at the FASC meeting at 11:15 to present again to the FASC members.

- VIII. Jamie Longley and Amy Hatter from Community Development were present to explain their programs to the group. Jamie is now in the Community Development General Assistance Department and Amy is the Community Development manager.

There are five (5) types of programs for residents:

- a. Rehab – For homeowners and landlords
- b. New unit creation programs
- c. Individuals who need assistance
- d. Business assistance
- e. Neighborhood Challenge Program
 1. Helps homeowners with ramps, stairs, etc.
 2. Critical repair – Major system failures/roof/chimney/heat pumps/furnaces/septic/sewer/hot water/utility lines/safety issues. (Loan program – payment is deferred until the home is sold or to reverts to the person who inherits the property.)
 3. Accessibility Repair - \$5,000.00 maximum
 4. Critical Repair - \$25,000.00
 5. Qualification = 80% of area median income – 2 people \$54,000.00, 1 person \$47,250.00
 6. Lead and Healthy Homes – lead paint removal – pre 1978 – for homes with kids under 6, even if they don't live with you. Grant up to \$156,000.00 for lead and up to \$3,000.00 for healthy homes.
 7. ARPA – Forgiveable load for curb appeal. Only for homeowners. Must live in the house.
 8. Rehab – Affordable Home Creation
 - a. AHUD – Accessory Dwelling Unit (Mother-in-law unit) Larger amount of money for 20 years, up to \$150,000.00 per unit. Can build between one and ten units. Doesn't have to income qualify. Determined by who the unit is rented to.
 - b. ADUD – 5 years – up to \$33,000.00 or 15% of actual building cost.
 9. Individual help section – Home ARP – Home section of the Covid money. Low barrier money. Supportive services – Partnering with two organizations:
 1. Housing Resources for youth and 2. Rumford Group Homes for the homeless, rent burdened, violence affected, human trafficking affected. A security deposit is required – up to two months.
 10. Matching rebate – Efficiency Maine
 11. Micro enterprise loan – Business start-up \$7,500.00
 12. Commercial Ag incentive program for farming. Forgiven after 12 months.
 13. Neighborhood Challenge Grant – If the neighborhood needs improvement for public property, money is available.

- IX. Ed Burgess will be at Kennedy Park on July 12th for a job fair from 12:00 to 4:00 p.m., with 30 employers, pop-up tents, applications and immediate interviews. On Saturday at Bonnie Park there will be a barbecue for the homeless from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Rain date: July 22nd. Pleasant Street Center is now officially a Drop-in Center. Ed will come to the seniors meeting on a Wednesday in August.
- X. Open Session:
- a. Leroy stated that we have a new person to take over Jamie's position.
 - b. The City of Auburn is hiring a special team to work with the homeless along the river.
 - c. The water situation – Poland Spring water has been delivered. One bottle per person, per event.
- XI. Adjournment on a motion by Cindy Larrabee. Second by Tina Eugley. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Biron, Secretary