

Age Friendly Community Meeting Minutes June 5, 2018 6:30 p.m.

Attendees: Leroy Walker, Jan Biron, Frank Pippin, Belinda Gerry, Sabrina Best, Alfreda Fournier and Larry Pelletier

Leroy Walker opened the meeting at 6:41 p.m.

The minutes from the May 15th meeting were reviewed. Larry moved to accept the minutes. All in favor.

The AARP application was passed out. Questions were asked relative to what the benefits are that we will be able to avail ourselves of. It was stated that there are many guidelines, and grant opportunities, that are not available to individual members. Letters will be signed by city officials to accompany the application. We will be advised as to our acceptance as members. Sabrina will call AARP on June 28th to talk to them about the program. After we are members, it is possible for the entire city to be a part of AARP as well. To survive as an Age-Friendly group, we need to be a member of AARP.

Leroy distributed a flyer about the Vietnam Veterans appreciation BBQ on June 21st from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Lewiston Vet Center, 35 Westminster Street, Lewiston. Larry explained the Take a Vet to School Day to those who were not familiar with the program. The program is done during school hours and students can participate. The high school's program is a little different from the one held at Park Avenue. Both were very successful. The high school wants to be involved with the program again. They incorporated some veterans into their community service day on May 18th.

Frank Pippin stated that he would like to ask Willie Danforth to join our group because he can offer a lot of information. He has connections to get some trinkets to give to kids.

The intention for tonight's meeting is to put an official committee together. Once the committee is in place, we are going to try to follow the guidelines from the Town of Bowdoinham, and will also use the Roadmap to Livability from AARP. We need to come up with a plan that everyone can follow. We need to develop a calendar that we can use as we move forward. Frank would like to volunteer to connect students/people with those who need help and get things scheduled. He will keep a spreadsheet to keep track of what is being done and by whom.

Leroy reiterated the wheelchair charging station idea for those who were not familiar with the program. We would like to get this implemented. Leroy stated that he would like to talk to Walmart to find out if they would agree to have a wheelchair charging station at their store to service their customers. Barry Schmieks has some great ideas about safety for elder people. Mamie Ney has tablets that she wants to provide for use by seniors so they can Skype with their families. A calendar would have to be set up to schedule Skype times and locations. All these ideas will hopefully be implemented. Nothing has been completed yet.

Cards were filled out by those who want to become members of the committee. Once that is done, a calendar of events and speakers will be scheduled for the meetings. There will be nine (9) people on the committee, not counting the co-chairs. They should be connected to the City of Auburn in some way, i.e. a relative living in the city, children in the school system who need services, etc. Several people want to be members, but were not at this meeting.

Belinda is putting a tri-fold brochure together with contact numbers, services that are available, etc. for distribution to the public.

Sabrina stated that there is a lot of opportunity for the group that we can do with the summer rec camp kids. She liked the Skype idea. She suggested starting an “adopt a grandparent” program. Sabrina said that there are events that are held at the rec department where seniors could participate, painting fingernails or toenails, etc. to bridge the age gap.

Alfreda stated that it would be fun to have a cribbage competition, and other events where they could play games, cards, etc. for socialization.

The 150th anniversary of Auburn is coming up. Leroy wants to meet with George Schott who owns a few “ducks” (open vehicles) in which seniors can ride in a parade. He would like to have the Auburn Community Concert Band play in the parade as well. There are a lot of other options where the Age Friendly group could get involved. He would also want to have a barbershop quartet to sing in the parade.

Sabrina stated that people want to bring back the Maine State Parade and have it here in Auburn. Leroy believes that Jerry DeWitt is the head of the L-A Veterans council.

The next meeting is scheduled for June 19th at 6:30 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Jan Biron Secretary