



City of Auburn, Maine

60 Court Street | Auburn, Maine 04210
www.auburnmaine.gov | 207.333.6601

BOARD/COMMITTEE/WG MEETING MINUTES

Homelessness Committee – Minutes

February 17, 2026 | 9:30 AM – 11:00 AM

Auburn Resource Center @ 121 Mill Street, ARC Conference Room

Auburn Resource Center @ 121 Mill Street, ARC Conference Room

Attending Committee Members: Tim Cowan, Bill Lowenstein, David Bilodeau, George Sheats, Dawn Comeau, Angela Blier, Cecilia Natale, Jennifer Eugley

Excused Absences: Thomas Hibbert (voting member), Rebecca Austin (voting member)

Attending Ex Officio Members: Jennifer Edwards

Excused Ex Officio Absences: Sasha Anastasoff, Tim Cogle, Steve Almquist

Attending Guests: Mayor Jeff Harmon

Agenda Items

1. Call to order & Review of Agenda – 9:29am
 - Motion to approve excused absences: George, 2nd – Bill, all in favor
2. Review and approval of 01/20/26 meeting minutes
 - Motion to accept – Bill, 2nd – George, all in favor
3. Update: Auburn Resource Center (Mayor Harmon/Jennifer Edwards)
 - Waiting for final lease to be signed and all offices will be full
 - All-partner meetings once a month (bringing in outside partners to present sometimes and connect to work with)
 - Interest in setting up quarterly meetings with outside partners, too
 - Auburn Adult Ed holding Hiset classes
 - My Money Works financial literacy class by New Ventures coming up
 - First job fair on March 3
 - Cecilia asked for full list of partners; Jen said Zakk is working on a list and will provide for committee members
 - Tim will reach out to Liz about promotion/ribbon-cutting
4. Update: Drop-In Center (Jen Eugley)
 - In Dec 2024: average of 112 guests/day (in Dec 2025: average of 87



City of Auburn, Maine

60 Court Street | Auburn, Maine 04210
www.auburnmaine.gov | 207.333.6601

BOARD/COMMITTEE/WG MEETING MINUTES

- guests/day*); in Jan 2024: average of 122 guests/day (in Jan 2025: average of 76 guests/day)
- Health on Wheels 2x in January, 3x in February (at Warming Center on other Wednesdays 12:30-4:30pm)
 - Foot Care Clinic on Jan 14 - 22 guests participated, with certified foot care nurse Trisha trimming nails. Shared a few heartwarming stories. Next Foot Care Clinic on 2/25
 - Free haircuts 3x this month by Sonia Bermonty of Operation You Matter & Darlene Conant of Salt & Light Community Center.
 - LAARC listening session held on 2/4 & 2/11 was a success
 - Kayla (City of Auburn) has been doing Coordinated Entry Assessments – stationed at front door to catch names at sign-in, get updates and connect with those who want help with housing; great to be able to tell referrals from CM agencies that there will be someone to do assessments every Wed from 9-11:30am
 - Anticipate moving into kitchen 2/22! (ready to serve food 2/25); Bates & DaVinci's will continue to provide food for a couple weeks while we get settled
5. Update: Warming Center (Dave Bilodeau)
- Getting ready to turn into 40-person shelter in April (people are nervous about going down from the 100 people in the Warming Center right now, wanting to be one of the 40)
 - Jeff: understood that 40-beds would start but 60 warming center slots would remain open (at least in the fall, if not summer) – Jeff will follow up and clarify
 - New Trinity building is up and running, beautiful space, kitchen is very professional, upstairs offices aren't set up yet (like here, where different partners rent space), number of guests has increased since the last building; open houses upcoming; serving one meal per day; Monday-Friday; to be a member: have a CM, be actively looking for housing, filling out a min # of applications, working on getting a job, etc.; Dawn: housing seekers can apply to multiple AH properties that they qualify for at once; Jeff: Trinity is a different model than the low-barrier model of the DIC, more of a social service location (not homeless-specific services); Dawn: Trinity reached out and asked if AH wanted to pick up meals for elderly residents in their buildings (pick up 90 on Wednesdays – one hot meal and one cold meal for later in the week), it's



City of Auburn, Maine

60 Court Street | Auburn, Maine 04210
www.auburnmaine.gov | 207.333.6601

BOARD/COMMITTEE/WG MEETING MINUTES

- been a huge success!; Dave: Trinity is looking at ways to deliver food to homes; there is a cap on the number of people that can access
6. Update: Auburn Comp plan (Councilor Cowan)
 - Working on policies, actions, strategies; March 9 meeting
 7. PIT Count Discussion – Debrief, updates, areas to improve next year
 - From Julia (before de-duplication: 187 surveys (Androscoggin County Hub 4), +100 surveys from Warming Center, also got Hope Haven surveys, important to engage those that don't seek services next year, Julia will compare surveyed names to HMIS, shoutout to Lauren Caffee who did 27 out of the DIC's 47!; PD only made contact with 2 people – that's a big area of improvement for next year; Jen Edwards: we might be able to add a check box in the app that says "couch-surfing/doubled-up" (with Maine CoC approval) to get a better idea of housing-insecure, even if they're not unsheltered; we'll follow up with Tim Cogle about attempts vs. completed surveys with PD; Jen: thank you to Sasha & Cecilia for volunteering at the DIC to free up PIT volunteers
 8. Mayor Harmon – Discuss January 27th presentation by Patrick Schacherer, Iowa Director of the Institute for Community Alliances (ICA), and next steps for our community
 - ICA now administers HMIS in Maine (used to be MaineHousing)
 - Gather data that's usable beyond just housing; coordinating services instead of every agency doing their own thing independently
 - Community Development is working on a follow-up meeting with interested agencies
 - The HMIS system has more capability than is currently being utilized, but also has limitations
 - Biggest impediment is that it's not mobile – only usable on laptop/tablet (browser-based)
 - State is watching what kind of traction we get in the L/A area
 9. Home for Good: How does the committee want to support the gathering of additional items that will be needed for residents to move into the 30 units when the Home for Good building is ready?
 - Cecilia: Community Concepts has had a community baby shower – maybe do a community house warming party?; also outreach to larger companies for larger items; get community buy-in and reducing stigma; George: used to work with a recovery network who made up boxes of home items; assigning different apartments



City of Auburn, Maine

60 Court Street | Auburn, Maine 04210
www.auburnmaine.gov | 207.333.6601

BOARD/COMMITTEE/WG MEETING MINUTES

- or different items (bath towels, lamps, etc.) to different organizations
- Angela: equality among items (same for each unit) so residents can't compare; get corporate partnerships like LL Bean; ask local companies to fundraise or gather items; Proctor & Gamble for cleaning/toiletry products
 - Jeff: create subcommittee (volunteers: George, Cecilia, Dawn, Jeff)
 - George: Amy Smith at Healthy Homes – make a bed, take a bed program?; Shaw's buy a bag filled with universal items; George is part of the Rotary – maybe they could partner?
 - Cecilia: ask IKEA if they'd donate?
 - Jen: set up a registry and ask that the company it's set up through give a kick-back?
 - Figure out a place to store the donated items
 - Bill: presentation at Chamber of Commerce about this?
10. Letter of support needed for budget recommendations voted on at the January Meeting (Councilor Cowan)
- Told City Manager and Superintendent what the requests are; still need to write the letter
 - March 2 is the first cut on the budget, so the City needs it before then
11. Discussion of items for the next agenda – All
- Dave: will ask Erin to come present about Trinity
 - Gather list of food resources/day of the week in the region (and whether they're truly low-barrier or not); Cecilia will try to put the Healthy Androscoggin guide into a week
 - Angela: Peggy Walton? is on the agenda for tonight to be added to the committee
 - Angela talking about Crisis Receiving Center
12. Public Comment
13. Motion to adjourn at 10:44 by George, 2nd by Dave, all in favor

Resources:

1. Ad-hoc Committee's report: [Addressing Homelessness in Auburn, Maine](#)
2. 2025 Auburn Housing Study: [PowerPoint Presentation](#)

Upcoming Meetings for Homeless Committee:

- March 17, 2026 9:30 AM – 11 AM



City of Auburn, Maine

60 Court Street | Auburn, Maine 04210
www.auburnmaine.gov | 207.333.6601

BOARD/COMMITTEE/WG MEETING MINUTES