

MINUTES

AGING IN PLACE IN UNION COMMITTEE

Monday, June 3, 2019

William Pullen Building Meeting Room

1:00 p.m.

Present: Wanda Gamage-Wyman, Katie Tarbox, Martha and Clark Hooper, Lorain Francis, Jay Feyler, and Carol Watier. Wanda Gamage-Wyman chaired the meeting.

1. Minutes of the May 6, 2019 meeting were approved as written, by Wanda Gamage-Wyman.
2. Katie Tarbox shared information on the Meals on Wheels bill coming before the Maine Legislature. She asked us to reach out to Republican legislators and urge them to support this additional funding request. They expect support from Democrats. Two hundred thirty-six recipients were served in Knox County this past year.
3. Wanda asked Jay Feyler about the depth of support from the town in our goal to provide transportation for those who need it. He said the support is there, and we can access the Thurston Fund money for transportation costs. We then got into an informational discussion about liability, background checks, etc. He told us that once a town does a background check, it opens the door to liability. The folks from St. George told us that they rely on the Good Samaritan Law. Katie told us that Meals on Wheels does not do background checks. A background check costs \$10/ person and goes back over the previous three years. It does not check in other states. The discussion moved to the assessment that no town in Knox County is truly age friendly. Katie told us that the new term to use is “lifelong communities” and not “age friendly.” Also don’t use “elderly,” but “older folks” is ok. Katie shared that there is a comprehensive movement forming to meet the needs of the Aging in Place folks. Waldo County has been actively working to meet these needs; they refer to it as Aging Well. The primary needs are housing, transportation, and addressing social isolation.
4. We spoke of the need to expand our group in order to take on our transportation project. We decided to have information available at the election on June 11, and hopefully some of us folks can spend some time sitting there to answer questions about our group. The focus will be on transportation needs. Folks come to vote generally first thing in the morning, at lunchtime, and then 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

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5. During the summer, Patrick the intern will attend our meeting for Jay.
6. Lorain is going to have a nonprofit informational table at the Union Farmer's Market, sharing info about this committee and about the food pantry.
7. Wanda Gamage-Wyman and Lorain Francis will serve as co-chairs.
8. The next meeting will be Monday, July 8, 2019 at 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Watier
Notetaker for the day