

## MINUTES

### AGING IN PLACE IN UNION COMMITTEE

MONDAY, MARCH 7, 2022

1:00 p.m.

#### Zoom meeting hosted by Lorain Francis.

Present: Lorain Francis, Katie Tarbox, Anita Brown, Bill Lombardi, Carol Watier, Debra Lay, Bob and Dot Williams, Abraham Knight and Martha Johnson Nash.

1. Chairman, Lorain Francis, opened the meeting at 1:00 PM. She explained this meeting is being recorded.
2. Bob Williams motioned for the February 7, 2022 minutes to be approved as written. Seconded by Debra Lay This was unanimously approved by those who were present at the last meeting.
3. The zoom for our meetings needs to be listed on the Town of Union website. Bill told us the town is going to physical meetings beginning March 29<sup>th</sup>. No one on this committee is able to take on the role of chairman. Bill agreed to work with Stacey on how to proceed. Questions like how physical meetings will be recorded and how to have an agenda etc. with no chairman. Lorain gave us her home email address to use in the future.
4. Discussion of March 17<sup>th</sup> take-out luncheon. Katie Tarbox has arranged for the MCH kitchen to provide 50 meals for the take-out luncheon on March 17<sup>th</sup>. This meal will be corn beef, cabbage, carrots, potato and dinner rolls. Anita will provide the cookies and Marcy is providing the water. Bill reported the containers were ordered and have arrived and are in the kitchen. All available committee members are asked to arrive at **10:30 am** on the 17<sup>th</sup>. Please let Lorain know if you are not available so we can be sure we have enough help. Katie will need help lifting the MCH food transports. She expects to arrive at 10:45 am. Our information bags will have a thank-you letter to MCH for the meal and contact information for Meals on Wheels. Also included will be How to Spot a Scam, Come Spring Food Pantry and Vose Library information.
5. Debra reported on a meeting she had with Holly to better understand the model for “Community Circles”. When messages come out the ultimate goal will be to collect what our needs are in Union being inclusive to caregivers of seniors as well as seniors themselves. It will be important for one person to speak and all others to listen and all sharing to be honored as presented by attentive listening. The library will be the starting meeting site and then it will expand out into the community.

6. Martha gave a complete history of the “Yellow” former school building and attached Thompson building. “Yellow” School was built in 1932. The Thompson addition was built in 1951 and although intended to be a Community Center it was needed for space for the growing school enrollment. Last high school class to graduate was 1968. Then used by elementary school until 1987 when new elementary school was built. The building was returned by MSAD #40 to the town of Union. After much town discussion it was leased to a committee in 1989 for \$1.00 a year to be run as a Community Center. It has been a challenge over the years to continue to maintain upkeep. More recently there has been an engineering study of the building which is posted on the town website. There is a committee for the Future of the Thompson Community Center, CFFTC and also a Thompson Memorial Association TMA which has an agreement to operate the building until the town votes on the future in June. Briefly the options are 1) to continue to operate as a community center 2) to lease all or part of the building for housing 3) sell it outright 4) tear it down. There are sub-groups gathering information on all these options to present to the town. There will be a special recorded meeting on March 29<sup>th</sup> with presentations and then also informational meetings in late May. Warrant articles will be to vote on the options. Everyone is encouraged to attend these information sessions to be informed before voting.

Martha gave us a video walking tour of the building showing us the rooms available. The gym is currently open 8 am to noon weekdays for walking inside and there is a jar for donations. Some spaces are rented. There is a line dancing group weekly. She showed us the classroom used as a schoolhouse history museum which has a ceiling leak. *The above is from secretarial notes only. Please do not consider it complete.*

7. Debra reported 5 people are now using the “Vose to Home” project. Still no success in getting a grant for the “Bio project” but she continues to plan for this next fall. The latest “story walk” at the library is going to have “fairy” or “whimsy” houses along the trails. At the school they are using natural materials and also a 3 D printer to make these. Anyone is invited to make one. A new term we will be hearing more about is “Bendable” and Vose may be the hub library for “Bendable Maine”.
8. Lorain reported for Come Spring food pantry now having 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday evening hours 5 to 7 pm for people who are working during the day. They are serving 16 more families at the new location.

Our next zoom meeting is, Monday, April 4, 2022 at 1PM. It will be in the Pullen Meeting room downstairs at the town office.

Respectfully submitted,

Anita Brown  
Secretary