

Minutes  
Age Friendly Committee  
Wednesday, May 25, 2016

Present: Romaine Turyn, Ann Mitchell, Marianne Perry, Bruce Bourgoine, Peter Morelli and Patricia Oh (AARP) John Moran and Eric Dyer

The meeting was called to order at 4:00.

Peter Morelli and Patricia Oh were in attendance to officially recognize the Town of Readfield as a member of its Age Friendly Network of Communities. Town Manager Eric Dyer and Select Board member Bruce Bourgoine accepted the plaque. The award of the grant from AARP was also discussed. Grant funds shall be used for planning and for doing a needs assessment of older residents. Patricia Oh, the force behind the successful initiative in Bowdoinham, has been hired by AARP to assist communities with their process of becoming age friendly. She will be available to help with doing focus groups if we decide to go have them in Readfield.

Patricia shared how she got involved in Bowdoinham and the evolution of that town's program. They discovered that 30% of those using their food pantry were over the age of 60. Their library did a project reaching out to older citizens. The Masons developed a handy man brigade and assisted doing chores like changing light bulbs, and making sure that contractors do the work that they are paid to do. A cooking class was also created which resulted in inclusion of older residents rather than separation.

Every community is different and Readfield needs to figure out how to broaden its membership. We need to look at our various communities...old timers, new comers, artists, farmers. We discussed some of our resources. It was determined the first thing we must do is document the community's assets and then reach out to those identified. Bruce suggested once identified, to extend an invitation to invite all stakeholders in order to broad our membership. All agreed that his was a good idea and that we should meet soon to begin that process.

The meeting adjourned at 5:40.

Respectfully submitted,

Romaine Turyn.