

Age-Friendly Sullivan Minutes, Wednesday, November 3, 2021, 9a-10a, ZOOM

	Topic	Discussion	Action
8:30am	Refreshments on your own	Meeting will begin at 9am	Regrets:
9am	Guest Speaker:	<p>Mary Jane Bush, Bucksport Age-Friendly Sullivan: Bucksport's Age and Ability Friendly projects - share our story - Senior Resource committee; 1998 Town of Bucksport comprehensive plan, Healthy Community coalition involved, assessment of community needs for youngest to oldest, completed in 2000, SRC to implement plan, leadership team, 10-12 people, couple of strategies important to issue, walkabout with town councilors, 2 over couple years, access to banks, post offices, # identified needing remediation, adjustments. Sue Lessard, Town Mgr, difficult with existing built environment, amazing what has transpired. (Continued in attachment).</p> <p>FMI: Alpha One Disability + Aging Solutions 207.767.2189 jjohanning@alphaonenow.org www.alphaonenow.org</p>	<p>2 brochures (on website)</p> <p>"Hold On" "Show you Care"</p>
	Funding & Finance:	No updates	
	Community Organization Updates:	<p>Frenchman Bay Library - book discussion "Mill Town" non-fiction. Books available — December 1st at 1pm at Rec center; Raina signed up to be FBL volunteer;</p> <p>Sorrento-Sullivan Historical Society - resume monthly history 11/17 evening Pam Beverage "Heirlooms" - reunite with family members; SSHS FB Halloween stories "Blaisdell" account historical.</p> <p>Sullivan-Sorrento Recreation Center - quiet month, COVID scares, some events & BEANO cancelled, Dereck Connors benefit supper became drive-through event; thrift store - Gail overwhelmed with donations;</p> <p>RSU24 - not legal to be meeting via ZOOM (school board) = meet in person; new school tour; Mr. Green, new SMHS principal offered board members to shadow him for a day.</p>	
	Legislation / Civic Engagement	<p>Select Board has paused the issuance of the Town Crier for 3 months — all info will be on the website or FB</p> <p>Cemetery Committee: looking for what info is available, good group, trying to get to position advise SB mowing contracts, etc. what we need in Sullivan, some have been neglected, need more area for burials,</p>	

	Current Discussion & Project Updates:	Comfortably Home - have 2 interested - personal approach.	
		AARP video - 11/6/21 9a-2p;	
		Walking Trail - asked for extension.	
		Friendly Caller program / Circle of Friends (cards): (Andrea gone 4 weeks) send email for volunteers;	
	Announcements/ Updates	Jean Girmshield: 1 space available - Cooking Matters: Holiday Edition class that begins November 15. Mondays for 6 weeks, 10-noon, in person at our adult education location in the Sullivan Town Hall. Again, free. To register, people may call our office at 422-4794 or go to our website (rsu24.maineadulted.org)	
	Next meeting	December 1st!!!	

Mary Jane Bush presentation (continued)

Credit volunteers doing tremendous educational process — priorities of areas that needed attention — who individually would take on that particular project. Dorothy Blair: Lack of ramp at local convenience store/gas station - 5 years kept communication with Irving Oil in Canada — plans to add ADA ramp to facility? Some changes were immediate. Bucksport grant fund to pay for changes to entrance as well as changes to required in bathrooms, grab bars/other items that would make it more accessible. Business owners took advantage of grants - 23 businesses had made changes to their facilities, including churches (handrail to altar receive communion), fixed handicap entrance, install ramps, etc. Handrails — don't use wide boards, install round handrails - educate people in the construction area to use correct handrails. Engaged EBS as part of strategy, code enforcement officer to hand out pamphlets. ADA compliance. Develop learning curve - how do people interpret accessibility, who sees that the law is applied, how work at National, State, Local level? HR Commission, Fire Marshall, CEO, Alpha One (Jill), what law is, who interprets who is in compliance? Key meeting - open to interpretation, volunteers shared impact of interpretations on individual lives of older adults, folks needing accommodation. Set a direction for the town, as moving forward - role of CEO, fire Marshall, types of inspections for licensing, laid path for town to review own ordinances, expanded language for compliance, relied on core volunteers - 1:1, people have taken it upon selves (neighbors, other organizations), posted in newspaper, social media. What works is personal invitation. Include info in local church bulletins/granges - invite folks to come. Overcame diversity with mill closure.

Pat Ranzoni, poet laureate - community was at mill gate at last shift, gathered everyones' memories (impact on everyones lives). "Still Lives" - so important to understand history, connections, celebrate history, pay-it-forward program, close relationship between town government / citizens - builds community as a whole.

Community development efforts / participation & activity. Focus on particular businesses - impediments / personally visit owner - "show you care program" brochures, how some changes could make it easier for someone to access business. Not always easy conversations,

volunteers remain persistent & positive. CofC award to one business for modifications. Personally thank each & every business owner - 4 page insert in local newspaper, acknowledge changes made, done several times, town council recognize business for changes made. Town intervene with funding assistance when needed. Community Pharmacy - doors — creative ways of what could be done while waiting on bigger repairs. Add doorbell to have staff open door. Beauty shop added temporary portable ramp for wheelchair access. If not perfect, what can be done? Policy issue: Jill presented to town council about ADA laws, primer course, history of law, practical application, reviewed town ordinances to be adjusted.

Ella was dynamo volunteer, walker, all around town, experience issues - condition of sidewalks in the winter, go to town council, demand sidewalks be better cared for, snow & ice removed, impact on all citizens. Ordinance? Snow removal in business district - Ella came back with suggestion - “Ella Rainer Golden Shovel” award, snow and ice from entrances, access to business, passed to winner annually. Former Health officer was judge — became competition among businesses. Town bought new sidewalk plow, set up barrels of salt/sand, accessible to local businesses. Show you Care / Chamber recognition.