

Age-Friendly Sullivan Livable Communities, **MINUTES** - Wednesday, January 4, 2023, 9a-10a, Sullivan Town Office

	Topic	Discussion	Action
8:30am	Refreshments / Social	Meeting will begin at 9am; Sandy Fortin, Nadine, Cyndi S, Trudy, Don, Candy, Darla Crocker, Diana Gazas, Hilly Crary; Jeanne, Ray, Beth, Andy, Cynthia P, Christina	Regrets:
9am	Guest Speakers:	Joanne Parkinson & John Lindquist, Friends in Action	To be rescheduled
	Community Organization Updates:	<p>Frenchman Bay Library - story time & crafts 1/14 10-12noon bird feeders; 2/5 fund-raiser Souper Chili; 1/24th Soup & Conversation “evolution & survival of rural libraries” (12 total); Christina reading to after-school “Chickadee Book” program; book room always open/organized by volunteers; Book Sale in February</p> <p>Sorrento-Sullivan Historical Society - ZOOM soon, popular throughout the State, annual newsletter out soon, need new Board members & volunteers; We are officially a “Heritage Area” see info attached.</p> <p>Sullivan-Sorrento Recreation Center - 1st New Year’s Dance, trying to do event/month; Benefit Lunch 1/15 noon; 1/17 Marine Resources Scallop survey; 2/14 Love & Lasagna; salvaged kitchen equipment from SMHS; George Schaefer hosted movie night 16mm; warming center - opened 12/24 (15); 12/25 (2); 12/27 (1)</p> <p>Healthy Acadia / Let’s Go - WinterKids Olympics - \$5000 for school, Food Pantry - collaborate with Schoodic Food Pantry; accepting donations of money/food (debit cards for Dunbars)</p> <p>RSU24 Adult Ed - New course catalog available; 1/23 11:30-12:30p FREE Zoom “Frauds & Scams”</p>	<p>1/15/23 @ noon: Benefit Lunch for Franklin Fire Asst. Chief, Steve Grindle @ SSRC - donations welcome! FMI, call 207-422-3220 or FB.</p>
	Legislation / Civic Engagement	<p>AARP “Tuesdays at the State House”, to join advocates or learn more, email: me@aarp.org, call 866-554-5380, or visit aarp.org/me</p> <p>AARP Maine announces its 2023 legislative agenda which includes establishing a paid family medical leave program for Maine, as well as a focus on fair and affordable utility rates, high-speed internet expansion and affordable housing.</p>	

Current Discussion & Project Updates:		<p>Comfortably Home programs - continue to have folks connect (get statistics) - DCP new program “Heating system repair & replacement” - malfunctioning / condemned; furnace cleaning; chimney repairs (income eligible) drastic situations; Bone Builders - has openings, meets T/Th 10:30-11:30am - contact Christina McGowan if interested. 1/07 7-11am; EAAA Food Distribution - applications available at Town Office and FBLibrary 1/07 Tues/Thurs Bone Builders has openings</p> <p>5-year Age-Friendly Sullivan celebration and next steps</p>	<p>1/17 11:30a Birthday Cards for next month - open to everyone; one volunteer offering sympathy cards 1/17th 1pm; Healthy Acadia: Let’s Go Snowshoe walk & demonstration at SSRC Walking Trail, Storybook Walk - register at FBLibrary 422-2307</p>
Announcements/Updates		<p>2/23 & 3/09: AARP/Tax Aide: FREE Tax preparation at FBL - FCFS appointments only (1p-4p) call 207.422.2307 to reserve appointment RSU24: “Cooking Matters” Weds: Jan 25-Mar 15, 2023 5-6pm Free Cooking Class Series</p>	
Next meeting (in-person):		<p>February 1, 2023: Janet Lewis, LSW, Northern Light Health, addressing concerns of loneliness & isolation</p>	

DOWNEAST MAINE NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA DESIGNATION IS APPROVED

Just before the Congressional session ended in December, Congress passed our proposal to create the Downeast Maine National Heritage Area and it was sent to President Biden for the final signature!! The legislation specifically recognizes the national contributions of Downeast Maine’s natural resources industries – including wild blueberries, fishing, and forestry. After years of hard work by many residents of Downeast Maine, including the wild blueberry growers who initiated the process, this legislation creates the 56th National Heritage Area in the United States and the first one in Maine.

The Downeast Maine National Heritage Area includes all of Hancock and Washington counties as an area with national importance. These areas will now qualify for additional federal funds and attract other funding to support locally-led historic preservation, natural resource conservation, recreation, heritage tourism, new and traditional industries, and educational projects.

The Downeast Maine National Heritage Area will provide matching funds to local entities, like a historical society, downtown revitalization group, municipal government, or school who undertake heritage-related projects within their communities.

Now that the Downeast Maine National Heritage Area designation is approved, detailed public planning process will occur in 2023 and 2024. This process will result in what is called a Management Plan. The Management Plan details priorities and projects outlined by community members and serves as a work plan for the NHA program going forward; it is updated annually to reflect progress, new opportunity, and adjusted priorities. Once the Management Plan is complete, municipalities, organizations, and schools will be eligible to receive federal dollars for projects related to our Downeast heritage.