

Town of Deerfield
Age-Friendly Deerfield (AFD) Working Group

August 26, 2026

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Attendees: Jack Hutchinson, Jan Clark, Karen Festa, Leslie Van Berkum, Bernie Cameron, Judy Daigle, Marie Smith, Deb Boisvert, Andy Hotaling, Lynn Garland, Joanne Frechette, Errol Rhodes and Bella Abraham.

The previous minutes from June were moved, seconded and approved.

A Matter Of Balance- Leslie, Deb Kelley and Paul Linscott created a brochure for AMOB. Twelve participants are signed up for the 8 week session starting October 15.

Information Booklet- Deb B. added resources to the AFD booklet and will print it. Instead of it being for Fall/Winter 2026, it will be changed to say 2026-2027.

Finances- Andy said \$117.47 came in as interest and donations. \$137.99 went out for printing and yoga costs, leaving a balance of \$5,790.23
Restricted funds will be used for Gazebo Trail and printing costs leaving a balance of \$4081.85

Silver Yoga- Our yoga leader, Stephanie Hanson will be moving away in the near future. Two instructors, Val Brodie and Mariane Robert have interest in picking up the program. The question asked is if Stephanie can be reimbursed? We are seeking community support for Silver Yoga Lisa and Patrick Brochu have offered \$1,000, and \$6000 has been committed anonymously by others. Two sessions at \$40 per hour will cost \$8,000 / year.

Walking Trails- Chain saw work is needed in the Dowst Cate Trail. Peter Van Berkum has offered to take a fallen tree out. Leslie Van Berkum has pulled some of the poison ivy out and will post a sign warning walkers who may be unfamiliar. Jack said brushing the trail once a year would be good both for new growth and to keep up with the overhanging beech limbs which lose strength as those trees weaken from Beech Leaf Disease.

Senior Cafe- More facilitators have signed up to help with Senior Cafe. It is going very well.

Ready Rides- The new fiscal year has restarted and getting state money should begin. In June ten Deerfield drivers drove 30 hours. In July eight drivers doing 42 hours. Ready Rides Board members went to a fair to recruit drivers. It has been noted that language can be a barrier that gets in the way for Ready Rides.

Website/Social Media- Deb B. will add the resources to the website that have been added to the AFD Booklet. Jan Clark asked if any large print could be made available. We may be able to print a few copies in a larger format....Deb asked for pictures and stories for the website.

Fixit Events- Bernie talked to people from Newburyport. She found that insurance is necessary. Fixit items include lamps, small appliances and sewing. Newburyport events include giving fixers their lunch.

Aging Out Loud- These sessions will start up again in January and will be held on Sundays. Topics could include ADUs, Aging Bodies, Wills, Trusts and Probate, End of Life planning and Scams and how to recognize them.

Candidates' Night- Jack proposed hosting a candidates night on Seniors' issues. No decision was made.

Our next meeting will be September 23rd.



Don't forget to record your AFD volunteer hours here bit.ly/AFDhours

