

MAINE AGING INITIATIVE: Public and Private Safety Workgroup

Meeting Minutes: June 17, 2016

9:30-11AM

Location: Topsham, PD

Present at the meeting: Joel Merry, Jane Margesson, Mike Field, Jess Maurer, Shawn Lewin and Deputy Chief Jeff Emerson from the Brunswick Fire Department

1. Joel and Jane gave a quick review of the conference call with Speaker Eves which took place at 8:30AM that same morning.
2. Jeff gave a broad overview of his department's work on addressing hoarding which is a growing concern in many neighborhoods. Very often it is a whole community that can be affected by just one hoarder. There are no easy solutions. Sometimes eviction of a hoarder by a landlord will result in an even more dire situation.
3. Jess Maurer provided context to Jeff and Shawn regarding the Workgroups goals and work to date. Shawn has already committed to attending the next meeting on July 22nd in Topsham.
4. Brief discussion of TRIADs. Shawn is part of the Lincoln County TRIAD and expressed interest in involving the group in some the Workgroup's initiatives, particularly as Boothbay Harbor which serves as the hub of this TRIAD, now has a new community center.
5. Jane mentioned that there is budget available as part of her AARP Fraud Watch Network work in 2016 to conduct two more Train the Trainer sessions for law enforcement and others on scam awareness. The group discussed combining this with a Train the Trainer session on fire safety and testing this model in the Brunswick/Topsham area. Jane also mentioned that this could involve the American Red Cross in Maine and their fire safety initiative. Mike serves on the ARC board and Jane serves on their volunteer committee so there is a natural relationship opportunity there for this project.
6. As the meeting was spent in large part addressing the issues of hoarding and fire safety, the group will tackle some of the broader issues the Workgroup plans to address in 2016.