



City of Auburn, Maine

60 Court Street | Auburn, Maine 04210
www.auburnmaine.gov | 207.333.6601

BOARD/COMMITTEE/WG MEETING MINUTES

Homelessness Committee - Draft Minutes

August 18, 2026 at 9:30 am – 11:00 am

Auburn Resource Center @ 121 Mill Street, ARC Conference Room

Attending Committee Members: Bill Lowenstein, David Bilodeau, Cecilia Natale, Peggy Walton, George Sheets, Angela Blier

Excused Absenses: Rebecca Austin, Tim Cowan, Sasha Anastasoff, Dawn Comeau, Tom Hibbert, Tim Cogle

Attending Ex Officio Members: Jennifer Edwards, Steve Almquist

Attending Guests: Mayor Jeff Harmon

Agenda Items:

1. Call to order and review of agenda (Dave) – 9:30 am
2. Review and approval of 7/21/26 meeting minutes
 - Motion to accept by Bill, 2nd by George, all in favor
3. Excused absences by Committee members for today's meeting: Rebecca Austin, Tim Cowan, Sasha Anastasoff, Dawn Comeau, Tom Hibbert, and Tim Cogle
 - Motion by George, 2nd by Bill, all in favor
4. Regular Updates: Auburn Resource Center
 - A successful hiring event with the Career Center on 8/11 with 20 recruiting employers and 3 community service providers. There were 95 job seekers that attended the 2-hour event
 - Follow up survey by the Career Center stated that the ARC got a rating of 5/5 as a venue by all employers involved in the event
5. Regular updates: Drop-In Center
 - Guest attendance dropped slightly in July with 138 guests/day, but attendance is up to 145 guests/day in August
 - The first Narcan training (led by Spurwink staff) was held for guests on 7/29. Just a few people attended but were excited to learn and get a refresher
 - Update on opening a 3rd day: likely won't happen until at least next summer
 - Trying to manage guests staying and hanging out outside the building and/or returning to the grounds after the DIC closes for the day.
 - Dave and Mayor Harmon: There was a recent incident with a local resident of Barker Mills complaining about trash on the property following the center closing on Saturday – there was a miscommunication with DIC staff and volunteers regarding the trash left behind at the front of the building. Staff and volunteers have been spoken to and the trash was picked up on Sunday when it was discovered. There was a recent article (and video showing the trash) in the Sun Journal



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6. Regular updates on the Warming Center
 - On schedule to be open in October, pending weather; no change in the plan
 - There was an incident recently with a guest throwing hot soup on another, who then was taken to the hospital. Staff has addressed this, however it did make it to social media
 - Mayor Harmon: the state will open its annual warming center funding in likely mid-late September, and having a letter of support from the Homelessness Subcommittee would be helpful again this year
 - Alter L/A is moving into the Auburn Mall as a retail location
7. Regular updates on the Auburn Comprehensive Plan
 - Draft plan is available; nothing related to homelessness as changed
 - The Comprehensive Plan Committee will meet tonight (8/18), 8/25, and 9/9 to review the full plan to make final edits before adopting the draft. In September-December, the Auburn Planning Board and City Council will review it. There will be a Comprehensive Plan Public Hearing in the future as well
8. Rally for Recovery Participation
 - Taking place on Saturday, September 26 at 12 – 3 pm at Kennedy Park
 - Question to the group is if we want to have a Homelessness Committee table again. It's good visibility to have and good to participate Dave will be attending but with OPTIONS, and Cecilia will be attending but with Healthy Androscoggin. But both are able to periodically go over to the table if there's someone else able to attend.
 - Several have conflicts to attend. Bill may be able to table, but won't know until Labor Day. Mayor Harmon posed that Tim could possibly speak at the rally
 - If we do have a table – are there any materials, giveaways or items that Auburn can provide?
9. Discussion of ant carry-over items from the July meeting (none)
10. Community "House Warming" Subcommittee Updates
 - Auburn City Council approved \$25k in unrestricted funds and approved \$100k to front money to purchase items for units. Mayor Harmon spoke to Mayor Carl Sheline about the Lewiston City Council matching Auburn's \$25k of unrestricted funds.
 - A "pitch document" that can be used to outreach and approach businesses for support, cash donations, and item donations is being drafted by the Auburn Grants Manager.
 - George is working to schedule a presentation for Mayor Harmon to speak to The Rotary.
 - Bill: what about a presentation and/or table at an L/A Metro Chamber meeting?



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- Need to contact Maine State Prison Showroom to inquire about placing a large order for furniture in each unit, decide on specific furniture items/styles for the units, and schedule time to visit the showroom and see the items in person before placing the order
 - Dave: just got a bunch of medication lock boxes from Healthy Androscoggin – is that something that would be good to provide to the new Home for Good tenants? Angie will look into it and report back.
11. Discussion of items for September and October agendas
- Decide on tabling and items to table with for the Rally for Recovery (September)
 - Julia Kimball for Point in Time planning for 2027 count (October)
 - Kevin Bouillard from the Warming Center to give an update (September)
 - Cecilia to give an update on the Maine Shared Community Health Needs Assessment (September)
 - McKinney Vinto Program update by Sasha (October)
12. Public Comment (none)
13. Motion to adjourn at 9:58 am by Peggy, 2nd by George, all in favor

Resources

1. Ad-hoc Committee's report: [Addressing Homelessness in Auburn, Maine](#)
2. 2025 Auburn Housing Study: [PowerPoint Presentation](#)

Upcoming Meetings for Homelessness Committee:

- September 15, 2026 9:30 am – 11 am