



**WENA General Meeting**  
Wednesday, January 14, 2026  
6:30 pm  
**MINUTES**

### **1. Welcome & Introductions**

President Ethan Shresthra called the meeting to order and welcomed folks to his first meeting as president. Vice President Roseanne Graef and Treasurer Brian VanDussen were unable to attend.

Attendees introduced themselves, shared their street of residence, and responded to an icebreaker question about favorite winter activities in Maine. Several new residents were welcomed, including neighbors recently relocated from out of state.

### **2. Secretary's Report**

Secretary Mark Tappan reported:

- Minutes from the November general meeting are posted on the WENA website.
- Website revisions are underway, with plans to improve usability and archive past meeting minutes.
- No formal vote required on prior minutes.

### **3. Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer Bryan van Dussen was unavailable to present the Treasurer's report.

### **4. Community Policing Report**

Carol Dunph and Officer Les \_\_\_\_

Updates included:

- Safety walkthrough conducted at St. Luke's Church.
- Brackett Street concerns addressed over the summer; situation currently stable.
- Increased monitoring ("special attentions") in areas with recent safety concerns, including Winter and Clark Streets.
- Reminder to report illegally parked vehicles:
  - Call Parking Enforcement directly for immediate response.
  - Use SeeClickFix for ongoing issues.

### **School Safety & Volunteers**



- Volunteers needed to walk Reiche School students (8:15–9:15 AM).
- Background verification required.
- Contact WENA to be connected with Molly Mendola (Reiche School).

### **Food Access Programs**

- Monthly mobile food distribution:
  - 17 Carleton Street (11:00–12:00)
  - 284 Danforth Street
- Weekly food pantry at former Greyhound bus station (Thursdays, 10:00 AM–3:00 PM).
- Thanksgiving meal distribution program available.

Officers encouraged residents to reach out directly with concerns.

## **5. General Announcements & Ongoing Activities**

### **Movie Matinee**

- Final matinee scheduled this month.
- Volunteer needed to coordinate future movie events.

### **Snow Shoveling Assistance**

- Coordinated by Katherine Charbonneau.
- Volunteers needed to assist residents 65+ after snowfalls.

### **WENA Activities**

Ongoing and upcoming activities in collaboration with Portland Parks & Rec:

- Morning exercise group (8:15–9:15 AM).
- Tai Chi (Monday afternoons).
- Study Circles (traffic calming, civic topics, Wabanaki history).
  - New spring study circle on the Declaration of Independence. Organizing meeting on Feb 9<sup>th</sup>.
- Coffee with Legislative Leaders (January 24).
- Annual Neighborhood Cleanup (target date: April 18).
- Poetry & Prose Night (February 26).

### **New Activity Proposal**

- Leah volunteered to facilitate a neighborhood book club.



- Sign-up sheet to be circulated.

## **6. Sustainability Workshops (Caitlin Enz)**

Three workshops were held with support from a Portland Sustainability mini-grant:

1. Repair & mending (darning socks, clothing repair)
2. Repurposing textiles
3. Altering & clothing swap

Remaining donated clothing provided to the Roux Institute for students.  
Interest expressed in establishing an ongoing mending/sewing group.

City sustainability resources highlighted:

- Mini-grants
- Block party kits
- Cleanup kits

## **7. Reiche School Updates (Molly Mendola)**

- Volunteers needed for morning walking group.
- After-school K–5 math support volunteers sought.
- Flatbread fundraiser night forthcoming.
- Portland Mariners 50/50 raffle fundraiser.

## **8. Graffiti Cleanup Report (Gregory Farino)**

- Second annual graffiti reporting initiative completed.
- Reports submitted via SeeClickFix.
- City response time improved significantly compared to prior year.
- Volunteers welcome for 2026 effort.

## **9. Traffic Calming Update (Gregory Farino)**

- Seasonal traffic calming measures (bollards) showed measurable speed reduction and improved pedestrian safety.
- Program expanded in Year 2; additional expansion planned for 2026.
- Residents encouraged to submit crosswalk and safety concerns via WENA email.

## **10. Vision Zero Presentation**



**Guest Speaker: Paul Drinan, Founder & Director, Vision Zero Maine**

Key points:

- Vision Zero aims to eliminate traffic fatalities and serious injuries through systemic design changes.
- Emphasis on road design over enforcement.
- Safe System Approach adopted by Maine MPOs (2022).
- Growth in active transportation (walking, biking, rolling, e-mobility).
- Federal Safe Streets for All grants support local projects.
- Vision Zero represents a cultural shift prioritizing safety, equity, and infrastructure redesign.

Discussion included:

- Economic and public health benefits of active transportation.
- Importance of proactive crash prevention.
- Upcoming state transportation policy work (2026).

## **11. Adjournment**

Ethan adjourned the meeting at 8:00 pm.