

Council on Aging Minutes for Virtual Meeting of September 13, 2023

Approved as corrected in the meeting of 10/11/2023

The meeting was called to order at 5:33 p.m. A roll call identified those present: JoAnn Bernhard (JB)), Janis Gray (JSG), Susan Millinger (SM), Linda Avis Scott (LAS); Martha Favre (MF) and Jeanette Stockton (JS) arrived in time for the website preview. Guest: The Chief of Police was expected to make a presentation, but did not attend.

Minutes of the Meeting of July 12, 2023: Motion to approve these minutes was made and seconded, but not passed. With the correction of a missing “e,” *a motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes as amended. The motion passed unanimously in a roll call vote.*

Minutes of the Meeting of August 9, 2023: Motion to postpone these minutes for consideration at the next meeting was made, seconded, and passed unanimously in a roll call vote.

Business:

Zoom Failure Guidance. After the COA’s experience of having had the July meeting abruptly discontinued, LAS had consulted the Town Clerk for advice on the correct way to handle such a situation. The Town Clerk had consulted the Attorney General’s Office and learned that an open meeting need not be officially adjourned to close. The AG’s office emphasized the importance of courtesy when one meeting has not yet ended while the ensuing meeting was organizing to begin its meeting. Noting in the minutes of the meeting that it had been abruptly ended is an appropriate closing.

Financial Update:

The COA Financial Report for 7.12.2023 contained an error. The amount of funds available for FY24 remaining from FY 23 should have been \$1,778.43.

Adding the anticipated grant from EEOA of \$7,488, the total available for FY24 was \$9,266.43 on 7.12.23. Given the budget decisions at the August meeting, \$1,432.43 remains unallocated.

Note: Grant Update: The EEOA Grant provides another \$14 than in the last budget year per senior for Towns with more than 500 seniors. The COA is not yet sure whether we are credited with 571 or 624 seniors.

FY24 Expenditures to August 9, 2023

July: FootCare by Nurses: \$200

August: FootCare by Nurses: \$127

Budget business: In order for the Town Accountant to give Village Neighbors what the Shutesbury COA has decided to give it, a specific vote is needed. A motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously in a roll call vote to donate \$1,000 to Village Neighbors for FY 2024. The secretary will write a note about the vote on this matter and send it to the co-chair, JB, to be sent to accountant Gail Weiss. JB can also pay the MCOA dues.

The Smartphone Skills Workshops: Planning for these workshops is complete and “Using Your Smart Phone Smarter” is being advertised. Thanks to the work of Martha Favre, retired librarian Barbara Friedman will teach two workshops on October 25: on iPhone from 10-11:30 and on Android phones from 1 to 2:30; both in the large meeting room in the basement of Town Hall. This room has a large screen which can be used. Library Director Antonellis (MA) agreed to cohost and will handle registration

and provide some publicity. JSG is to send the notice to MA. As noted in the August minutes, Friedman will provide a questionnaire available online and on paper; the link to the questionnaire will go out after registration. Six people can attend each session. Publicity is to be distributed on Town Announce, in the town newsletter, and on the COA website. JS will have the notice distributed to Village Neighbors members, identified as limited to Shutesbury residents.

At this point, LAS summarized to MF and JS the business transacted to this point by the meeting.

Website Preview: JSG has been tidying up the COA website. JSG looked at other committee sites and found that only four and one department are using tabs. These include the Board of Health, Broadband Committee, Energy and Climate Action Committee and the Historical Commission. COA members are asked to visit these sites before the October meeting to see how they use tabs. Tabs the COA might consider using include Resources for Food; Resources: Useful Documents; LifePath sources; Village Neighbors.

Unanticipated Items:

Transportation: JB reported on her presentation to the Select Board (SB) on FRTA's Demand-Response program, available for seniors, veterans, nursing home residents and the disabled. The SB approved the plan to initiate Demand-Response.

The challenge to actually initiating this program is that FRTA is not sure it has enough vans and drivers to serve all of Franklin County. FRTA will need to assess its resources to see if it can add Shutesbury to its service. (Both Leverett and Wendell currently use it.)

People picked up pay their own way (e.g., \$3 to Greenfield plus \$0.75 for a companion. Could the COA assist with costs? The COA will need to discuss this and consult the Town.

The Town Administrator, Becky Torres, wants to host a meeting with PVTA to see if they would provide Demand-Response service for medical appointments.

Vacancies: JS Gray will include the COA's vacancies in Our Town. LAS' last meeting will be October 11. LAS and JB are creating a task list.

Next Meeting: October 11 at 5:30. Anticipated business:

Minutes of August and September meetings

Grant Update

Peace of Mind binder

Bingo night as a possible event: Millinger to pursue

Chief of Police

Website and tabs

Note: JS needs the information on the Cellphone Skills classes for Village Neighbors

Motion to adjourn the meeting as made, seconded and passed by a unanimous roll call vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Susan Millinger, Secretary