

Council on Aging Minutes for Meeting of July 10, 2019

Present: Linda Avis Scott, JoAnn Bernhard, Susan Gomberg, Janis Gray, and Susan Millinger.

The meeting was called to order at 5:33 p.m. by the co-chairs JoAnn Bernhard and Linda Avis Scott.

Business:

Welcoming of new member, Susan Gomberg, who has been appointed by the Select Board at the recommendation of the COA.

Minutes of the Meeting of May 8, 2019:

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes as amended. The motion passed, with one abstention, of a person not yet a member on June 12th.

Report on Current Financial Condition:

In June, the COA had expenses greater than the balance in its grant from the Office of Elder Affairs. In addition to the money remaining in the grant, the Co-chairs used what remained in its Town Expense line and the Donation account (of donations for Foot Clinic) and an amount from the Gift Expense fund which came from COA-sponsored activities.

Details: -Reimbursement of MedRide drivers for mileage: \$269.25, leaving a balance of \$34.10 in grant.
-Foot Clinic Invoice for June: \$295: \$215 came from Donation of patients in June. The remaining \$80 came from the COA Town Expense line.
-Newsletter expenses: \$130.90: Were paid using \$34.10 from the grant balance; \$50 from the COA Town expense line balance; \$46.80 from the portion of the Gift Expense fund, which reflects donations from COA- sponsored activities. \$146.93 remains in that portion of Gift Expense which can be used for COA needs.

Certification that the COA has used all its grant has been sent to the State.

The application form for the next year's grant has not yet been received from the State. The Office of Elder Affairs should send out a preliminary grant amount for towns of our size; at that point we can start planning.

Updates:

-Med-Ride: The co-chairs have processed all the drivers' logs they have received. MedRide mileage reimbursement is increasing to 58 cents a mile from 54.5.

-Newsletter: Accidentally, the newsletters were not folded in the way Post Office machinery requires.

-Community Lunch: Was successful, with twelve people in attendance. Next Community Lunch will be on August 6th.

-Foot Clinic: Susan Gomberg reported that all went well at the June clinic, and that a new client was signed up for July. There was a discussion of whether clients should be encouraged to sign up for every other month, unless the nurse judges that the client should be seen monthly. It was agreed that this should be the standard, with the exception noted.

- **Name change of the Senior Lounge:** Melissa brought the suggestion to the Select Board, which decided to brainstorm the best way to commemorate David Dann's service to the Town. Perhaps it would be the suggested name change, but perhaps something else.

-**COA Website:** Since David Wheeler hasn't been able to bring the website up-to-date, it was suggested by JoAnn that some important changes be made to the site as soon as possible. Janis volunteered to do this. Eventually it will need good descriptions of the Foot Clinic, Med-Ride, and Community Lunch. For the present, the link to the defunct Task Force on Aging should be removed; the phone number (259-3796) to request a Foot Clinic appointment or a MedRide should be included; and new members of the Council identified. JoAnn will check with David about these changes.

-New Business:

A general discussion of the possibility of senior housing in town took place at Linda's initiative. The Council will discuss this further at its next meeting. For those who wish to see it, the recent Visioning Report, which included the possibility of senior housing, is available online at https://www.shutesbury.org/master_plan_working_group. The Conway School of Landscape Design made a report about possible uses of Lot 32 which included senior housing.

Program planning: COA expected to hear from the Library Director, Mary Anne Antonellis, about programs she is planning with a senior emphasis, for which she might request financial aid. Since she was unable to be present, the topic was postponed to another meeting.

Other Program possibilities: VALIC has a series of free talks on financial topics for seniors; the Office of Consumer Protection also offers programs.

Membership in Massachusetts Councils on Aging (MACOA): Linda raised the question of whether Shutesbury's COA wishes to continue its membership in this organization. Its dues, that have been a significant portion of our budget, are being increased this year from \$200 to \$230. Linda suggested that the organization has a lot to offer the COAs of larger towns and cities, but not for a small town like Shutesbury. Susan volunteered to research what MACOA might have to offer us.

Mail/Announcements:

-Announcement of Triad Unit's Sept 10th event

-A new mailing was received on LifePath and FRTA's transportation program, which can supplement MedRide for trips further away.

-Jennifer Henning of Mass Mobility interviewed David Dann and Linda about MedRide. She wants to feature our MedRide program on Mass Mobility's webpage.

Meeting adjourned, 6:58 p.m.

Next Meeting: Regular August Meeting, the second Wednesday, August 14, 2019 at 5:30.

Respectfully submitted, Susan Millinger, secretary

