

AGING IN PLACE MEETING NOTES

June 23, 2016 at the Shutesbury Town Hall

Those in Attendance: Carla Palmer, David Dann, David Wheeler, Paula Lyons, Nina Linda Siedman, Susan Rice and Teresa Allen and Thomas Masterton (both from the Leverett COA)

Meeting Times: We decided to have the meetings on the 4th Thursday of the month at 10:45 for 90 minutes. There will be an occasional pot luck but nothing on a regular basis. Note Keeping will be rotated among members. Thank you to Johanna for the wonderful notes from the last meeting.

TAKE AWAYS from the Modadnock at Home Presentations – those in attendance shared the following:

- *This endeavor will take a lot of work, dedicated people, organizational and entrepreneurial skills

- *On the administrative end we will need someone to pull things together. Might there be grants out there ?

- *We need more towns involved so we can get more \$ and hire an administrator to match things up.

- *the real question is whether there is support/interest in the community. We need to continue to get the word out and find out if there's energy to make this happen

- * Is there an overlap with Life Path, what will they provide and what will they definitely not provide?

TRANSPORTATION

We spent some time discussing this issue to clarify what COA offers right now. David D gave a brief summary of the Med Ride program now in place and also recently met with the Pelham COA/town clerk and shared information to see if they are interested in providing a similar one. The Shutesbury COA gets \$4000 from the municipality with guidelines itemized on the application. \$2000 of this is allocated to the Med Ride Program. Persons requesting assistance must be 55 years of older or have a disability. On average 8 rides per month are provided, last month 12-16 rides were given. There is a core of 4 drivers, 2 more just added, applicants are quarried(?), meet the COA guidelines, go through an orientation and training and use their own cars. Drivers are reimburse for mileage. A 2 week notice for an appointment is requested. Rides are given within Franklin, Hampshire and Hampden Counties and include visits to hospitals, doctors, labs, prescription pick ups and wellness or complementary care visits like massage or acupuncture. The question of adding rides for shopping was brought up as well as charging a minimum of \$5 for a ride. Discussion on this and our relationship with other interested towns will be on the agenda for the next meeting.

NAME CHANGE/VOLUNTEER TIME BANK

We discussed the possibility of changing our name Aging in Place to perhaps one that felt more inclusive of other age groups to be inclusive. We discussed whether we would want to include people of all ages

in a Volunteer Time Bank where, like other Networks in place, one could volunteer to then be compensated time for time for other services. The key principle of timebanking is that everyone's hour is equal and Timebank village tend to have younger people involved. For example, Elders could be babysitters, reading assistants, tutors etc. in exchange for a needed service provided by specialist who may be a younger person. (I see this as a fancy name for old time bartering, no?) Questions about whether the IRS can restrict age limits or if a non-profit status may be difficult to get. It was mentioned that we do not need to be a 501C because of our connection to the COA and decided that we will take this one step at a time, stay small and explore the idea of Volunteer Time Bank or a name change further along the process.

VTV MEMBERSHIP

As Rick mentioned we can sign up for VTV for \$100. Under this membership 15 people can sign up to use the resources at the website where there is all kinds of "how to" information as well as access to mentoring to get started.