

COA Minutes for January 10, 2018

Present: David Dann, Melissa Makepeace-O'Neil, Susan Millinger, Linda Avis Scott and David Wheeler. Guest: Sally Fairfield

Meeting called to order at 5:35 by David Dann.

Minutes of November 8 were unanimously approved with the correction of a minor typographic error. (In paragraph 3 of the minutes, "our State grant is no clear" should be "not clear.")

Business:

Discussion of the Budget. The chair believes that our grant from the State will be increased from \$4500 to \$5000, but the Council has not yet received a definite statement of the size of the grant from the State. It was suggested that we apply to the Town for additional funding. However, since so far, each year we have not used our entire grant (in 2016, spending some unexpended money on relevant books for the Library), it was felt that it is not yet time to ask the Town for a grant beyond the \$200 we currently receive. Note: This year \$180 of this \$200 went to dues for the State COA. The question was again raised: is our membership worth the cost?

The chair estimated that we may not spend all of the money allotted to the MedRide program. The money for the Foot Clinic, for the Newsletter, and for Programs will probably be spent.

The chair presented a request from the new Recreation Committee for \$300 to continue the popular Strength Training for Seniors classes in February and March. The Council discussed this request at length, developing a list of questions it would like ask the Recreation Committee. These include:

-Will strength training classes extend beyond March?

-What will the funding stream be in the future? The Committee needs to know that the Council may not be able to fund this program more than once.

-Would people from outside Shutesbury be attending, and if so: will Town residents have priority? Will people from outside Shutesbury be paying any fee towards the cost of the program?

A motion was made, seconded and passed (5-0) to offer the Recreation Committee \$150 for the two classes in February.

The Chair will call B.Z. Reily, the Committee's chair, and invite her to the meeting on February 14th at 6:30 p.m. The Committee will be asked to respond to the general question: what plans does it have for recreation for seniors?

Planning COA Program on March 21: Senior Medicare Patrol. The program itself will be a 30-45 minute presentation by a group from the State. It has been advertised as being from 6:30-7:30, but will invite people to come at 6, before the presentation, for refreshments. More precise plans on the refreshments will be made on Feb 14.

The program will be held in the Senior Lounge. Interested people from the towns participating in Village Neighbors will be invited (i.e., Leverett, New Salem, Wendell and Pelham.) The reps on the Village Neighbors committee will be invited at the next Neighbors meeting, and will be asked to spread the word in their individual towns.

A flyer will be needed: Linda will draft a flyer and bring it to the Feb. meeting. In addition, both *Our Town* (late January) and *The Geezette* (early March) can carry publicity for the program.

Report on the COA Website. David Wheeler reported that all the links are currently working. He asked for feedback. *Homework: COA members are asked to look at the website and send David emails with feedback-- especially on its content-- before the next meeting.*

Updates: On Community Lunch: there was a bigger group than usual in January. Linda and Sally are planning to clean out, take inventory, restock and reorganize the Senior Lounge cupboard/serving space. Restocking will require a source of money other than the State grant, which cannot be used for such purposes. Linda will talk with Becky about that.

The Foot Clinic: 7-9 people come every month (most people come every other month); usually 1-2 are new to the Clinic.

MedRides: at this point it looks as though there will be less use of the program, since the Town has lost one of the most frequent users of the service.

Village Neighbors continues to make progress. It hopes to roll out services this July. The articles of organization have been filed with the State; they have acquired an employment ID #; and are now eligible to file for 501C3 status. They are about to look at the software program they plan to use.

Next issue of *The Geezette*. Timing of next issue: a draft will be brought to the meeting of Feb 14, folding party will be on Feb 28, with mailing on March 2, weather permitting. Content will include: info on Senior Medicare Patrol program; reminder about vacancy on the Council; a piece on down-sizing; a piece (possibly with picture from Melissa) about the new track behind the school. The Logo contest will need to be postponed because of the event of March 21.

Motion was made, seconded and passed (5-0) to authorize the spending of \$25 for a cartoon for the next issue of *The Geezette*.

Discussion of **reaching out to people for prospective membership** on COA. We were reminded that normal procedure is for interested or likely people be invited to attend a meeting first. The Chair will extend an invitation to someone if he is asked to do so.

Meeting adjourned, 6:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Millinger, secretary