

Council on Aging Minutes for April 11, 2018

Present: David Dann, Susan Millinger, Linda Avis Scott. Absent, Melissa Makepeace-O'Neil and David Wheeler. Guests: Shelby Ashline from the *Greenfield Recorder*; Mary Anne Antonellis, Library Director.

Meeting called to order at 5:34 by David Dann.

Minutes of January 10, 2018 were unanimously approved.

Business:

Letter of Resignation from Jean Footit was read and unanimously (if regretfully) accepted. Linda Avis Scott had drafted a letter of acknowledgement and thanks which was signed by all present.

Membership: Terms of members which expire this summer were mentioned. David Dann wishes to continue for another term. Linda will need to know what David Wheeler wishes by the end of May. Since two more members are required for the committee to be at full strength, we need to make it known that COA is actively seeking additional members. We were reminded that normal procedure is that interested or likely people are invited to attend a meeting before deciding whether or not to join. The Chair will extend an invitation to someone if he is asked to do so.

Cancellation of Planned COA Program on March 21: Senior Medicare Patrol. Because of the forecast of heavy snow for March 21, it was decided to cancel this program. It will be rescheduled for a date in the fall.

Presentation by Guest: Shelby Ashline, the newest features editor at the *Greenfield Recorder*, is visiting COAs looking for people who would be interested in contributing reminiscences to the column *Times Past*. People can contribute a column by themselves, but Shelby is also willing to meet with someone with a story to tell and help write it up. *The COA members suggested that Sally interview Shelby for the Geezette, thus publicizing her search.* Several names of seniors who would have interesting stories to tell were also suggested. Shelby clarified that she was looking for stories about Shutesbury before the 1990s.

Discussion of the Budget. Our grant from the State was increased to \$5000, of which \$1,065.35 is what remained unspent from the previous year's grant. The chair reviewed how much has been spent, and is expected to be spent, during the remainder of the grant year in each main category, so we could see whether to consider reallocating funds from one category to another.

Allocations of State Grant:

Programs: \$750: spent as of early April: \$275 for fall Yoga (\$200) and fall Strength Training (\$75); \$200 committed for spring Yoga. In January, the COA gave \$150 to the Recreation Committee. Spent or committed: \$625

MedRide: \$2650: spent as of early April: about \$400. Maybe total for year will be about \$1400.

Foot Clinic: \$500: spent as of early April: \$200.

Newsletter: \$600: spent as of early April: about \$300 for two issues. Third issue of year: est. \$170.

We project we may need to reallocate about \$1500. In May or early June, we should consider how to spend those funds. [But see below for a further expenditure of \$675 for Programs at the April meeting.]

Town Grant We currently receive \$200 from the Town. This year \$180 of this \$200 went to dues for the State COA. Melissa is investigating whether our membership is worth the cost.

Presentation by Mary Anne Antonellis, Library Director. Mary Anne visited to describe existing programs and ask about COA interest in co-sponsoring additional programs with the Library. Mary Anne talked about current programs: Line Dancing, Strength Training for Seniors and Spring Yoga. Line Dancing is doing very well. About 1/3 of the people it attracts are in their 40s; 2/3 in their 50s, Mary Anne estimated. Because of its popularity, Mary Anne intends to add an extra 5 sessions, at a cost of \$75/class: total \$375. She would also like to add five more sessions of the very popular Strength Training for Seniors (at \$60/class, \$300.) The COA unanimously approved \$375 for Line Dancing, \$300 for Strength Training, and made official the \$200 grant for spring Yoga. **Total of \$675 additional for Programs.**

COA member to meet with evaluator. Mary Anne also asked for a COA member to meet with a visiting evaluator of the programs for which she had received a Science Literacy grant. (COA had cosponsored the Strength Training for Seniors program.) Susan was free to meet at 2 p.m. on April 24.

It was suggested that the Library Director, the Recreation Committee and the COA have a joint meeting in July to plan programming for the year.

Updates: On Community Potlucks: They continue; attendance varies from month to month. Melissa and Linda intend to carry out an inventory of COA supplies in the kitchen. However, before COA can make use of the contents of kitchen cabinets and drawers, we need to get the key. Melissa has agreed to procure the key.

The Foot Clinic: 6-8 people come every month. Beginning in April, the regular date will change to the third Wednesday of the month

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. There are six drivers; four of them drive regularly, one occasionally.

Village Neighbors continues to make progress. It has its official non-profit status; the IT committee is practicing with the new software package; PR has a pamphlet which will soon be available. The governance committee will become the Service Committee and supervise the program. It is expected now that services will start in August or September.

Web Page: *Reminder: COA members are to visit it and prepare responses for next meeting.*

Reminder of Volunteer Recognition Event, Sunday April 22.

Linda reported on recent mail.

Annual Report will soon be needed.

Next Meeting: May 9th

Meeting adjourned, 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Millinger, secretary