

Council on Aging Minutes for Meeting of January 22, 2020

Present: Linda Avis Scott, JoAnn Bernhard, Susan Gomberg, Janis Gray, Melissa Makepeace-O'Neil, and Susan Millinger. Guest: Sally Fairfield, *Geezette* editor. *Note: the meeting originally scheduled for January 8 was postponed until January 22 because of a lack of a quorum.*

Sadly, one of our members, David Wheeler, died since our last meeting. Before the meeting members signed a sympathy card to Rebecca Wheeler.

The meeting was called to order at 5:32 p.m. by co-chair JoAnn Bernhard.

Business:

Minutes of the Meeting of December 11, 2019: Motion to approve as read was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

Discussion of the Newsletter:

- **Dates:** It was decided that the editor would bring a draft as finished as possible to the COA meeting of February 12, with the folding party scheduled as soon as after as will be appropriate. Given the expected date of publication of *Our Town*, the town newsletter, the best publication date for the *Geezette* will be late February or at latest, early March.
- **Corrections needed:** for the opening time of the Foot Clinic (should be 8:30 a.m.) and the phone number of the Town Clerk (should be 259-1204.)
- **Suggestions for content:** a memorial for David Wheeler; information on LifePath's Home Care program. Bernhard will send the editor the information needed for the LifePath program. Bernhard will also ask the editor to include information for readers on how to get on Town Announce, and encourage them to use it. The editor will also be asked to encourage readers to send their email addresses to coa@shutesbury.org
- **Item for *Our Town*:** The question arose whether the COA had anything it wanted to report or announce in this upcoming issue of *Our Town*. It was decided that a small article would be useful: to say that *The Geezette* goes out to every household in Shutesbury with a member 55 or older, and to note that if anyone has been overlooked, and wishes to be on its mailing list they should contact coa@shutesbury.org
- **Updates:**
 - Community Lunch:** A good turnout of 11 at the lunch on January 7.
 - Med-Ride:** Generally quiet this past month, though there are two advance requests for rides in February.
 - Foot Clinic:** Susan Gomberg reported that there were 8 clients in January; that the one cancellation was filled. February is full, with four on the waiting list—priority to be given to the person who had to cancel in January. March is full, with one on the waiting list. The waiting list is working well.
 - Senior Housing:** Linda Avis Scott provided a summary overview of the COA's thinking, reading, and doing about senior housing. The next task is to draft and send out a preliminary survey of senior residents to discover their needs and values. This would be preliminary to a survey specifically focused to senior housing. Some time was spent looking at the questions in several surveys which Bernhard had helpfully compiled,

members noting some questions to include and some to omit. The meeting also discussed what additional surveys might be consulted, including the Berkshire County survey and the work of the Shutesbury Visioning Group. There was some discussion of process: would it be helpful to have input from someone with survey expertise? (The COA seemed willing to create the survey without advice other than that from the Franklin Regional Housing Authority.) How would the survey be sent out: by mail? by email? by both? (Probably both.) Could COA be ready to pass it out at the Annual Meeting, when a better response rate could be expected? (The answer was that's too soon.) General sentiment was for a brainstorming session on survey questions at the next meeting.

Status of the State Grant: News about the amount COA will receive from the State remains pending.

Meeting adjourned, 6:37 p.m.

Next Meeting: Regular February Meeting, the second Wednesday, February 12, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. Agenda: Newsletter business; brainstorming on survey questions.

Next Community Lunch: Tuesday, February 4.

Respectfully submitted, Susan Millinger, secretary