

## **Council on Aging Minutes for Virtual Meeting of September 9, 2020**

The meeting was called to order at 5:32 p.m.

Attendance was taken by calling the roll. Present: JoAnn Bernhard, Susan Gomberg, Janis Gray, Susan Millinger, and Linda Avis Scott. Absent, Melissa Makepeace-O'Neil.

### **Business:**

**Election of Officers for FYI 2021.** Moved, seconded, and unanimously approved by roll call vote that JoAnn Bernhard and Linda Avis Scott continue as co-chairs. Moved, seconded, and unanimously approved by roll call vote that Susan Millinger continue as secretary.

**Minutes of the Meeting of August 12, 2020:** Motion to accept the minutes as amended was made, seconded, and passed unanimously by roll call vote.

**Foot Clinic/Foot Care by Nurses:** Discussion of what to do about home visits when Foot Care by Nurses no longer discounts their price, but returns to the pre-pandemic price of \$90 a visit. The issue was tabled until after the discussion of the grant, to come later in the meeting.

**Interactions with Village Neighbors (VN):** Further discussion of the transfer to Village Neighbors of the grant from Shutesbury Education Foundation to VN's predecessor, the Aging in Place Task Force. \$874 of the original \$1,000 grant currently remains in the revolving fund after related expenses incurred by the early work of the Task Force.

After discussion, the motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously by roll call vote that "the Council on Aging transfer \$900 to Village Neighbors of the grant that was initially given by Shutesbury Education Foundation to the Aging in Place Task Force."

The secretary, Susan Millinger, is to draft a statement reflecting the motion just passed, to be attached to the warrant to transfer \$900 to Village Neighbors.

The letter drafted by Bernhard after the discussion on August 12 will be changed to reflect the motion just passed. It was moved, seconded, and passed unanimously by roll call vote that "The Council on Aging approves the letter written by JoAnn Bernhard with adjustments and language to make it current."

**Information about the Grant:** Bernhard reported on what she had learned about the history and conditions of the grant, information which had required a lengthy and challenging investigation.

**Key Findings:** The currently-used formula for the grant was developed in 2019. Each COA is allotted \$12 for every elder in its community; the number of elders is derived from the most recent census. Shutesbury had 312 elders in the 2010 Census. Every town, however, got a minimum of \$6,000, to be increased by \$12 for each elder inhabitant over 500.

Bernhard was unable to find the application form for the grant, but did discover that the worksheet Scott discovered is a part of the application. The worksheet contains, among other items, numbers of volunteer hours and numbers of individual elders served assessed in a variety of ways.

The grant application also involves a 1-page contract, signed by the Town Administrator, to be filed within the calendar year.

Recent legislation has made a significant change: beginning in fiscal year 2021, grants will be issued without the subtraction of any sum remaining from the previous grant.

**Program Updates:**

**-Support for Exercise Classes:** The Library Director, Mary Anne Antonellis, was unable to be present to make a request for help funding fall programs; it is expected that she will attend a future meeting.

**-Amherst Survival Center's Senior Nutrition Program, co-sponsored by COA and the Library Director:** Had four participants, up from the number noted at the July meeting.

**-The Foot Clinic/Foot Care by Nurses:** Discussion was resumed, with a better sense of what could be expected from the grant. This fall, the cost of a home visit will be \$90. Because of the impossibility of activity for other COA- sponsored programs, it was decided to continue to support home visits. The motion that "The Council on Aging should offer up to \$60 per month for a home visit for the months of October and November to the current client list" was made, seconded, and passed by roll call vote.

As in the past, clients will be reminded that the suggested donation should be whatever they can afford.

Gomberg is to write all this up and send to the clients.

**COA and the Town Website:** Gray has been able to make significant progress. Gray reported that she had been in touch with Gail Fleischaker of the Web Committee and found that including a link to Village Neighbors' email will not be a problem. Gray has added the Fall 2019 *Geezette*, and has found that she may make use of the blank space currently at the bottom of the page.

**Contribution to Our Town:** Gray will write a summary of the Senior Nutrition Program.

**Massachusetts COA Convention:** No one is interested in attending any of the sessions.

**FRCOG's MA Housing Partnership** event has a session on Senior Housing which would be of interest to us. Scott will circulate the information.

**Motion to adjourn was made, seconded and carried unanimously by a roll call vote.**

**The Meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.**

**Next Meeting:** Regular October Meeting, the second Wednesday, October 14, 2020 at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Susan Millinger, secretary