

## **Council on Aging Minutes for Virtual Meeting of February 10, 2021 Final**

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m.

Attendance was taken by calling the roll. Present: JoAnn Bernhard, Susan Gomberg, Janis Gray, and Linda Avis Scott. Gray reported that Susan Millinger had notified her and Scott that her arrival might be delayed but she planned to join the meeting. Millinger had asked Gray to take notes at the beginning until she could arrive. Millinger arrived at 5:35. Absent, Melissa Makepeace-O'Neil.

### **Business**

**Foot Clinic/Foot Care by Nurses:** Report by Gomberg - There was one new client since the Jan. 13 COA meeting. Gomberg also reported that she had contacted the client who was an Amherst resident and had a pleasant conversation. The woman understands that she is no longer part of the Shutesbury caseload with Footcare by Nurses but could continue with them through the Amherst COA.

Report by Scott: in January, the COA reimbursed Foot Care by Nurses for three clients in the amounts of \$60, \$40, and \$30, respectively, for a total of \$130.

### **Financial Update:**

Earlier this week, Millinger sent Scott the requested record of the motion at the COA January meeting to donate \$500 to Village Neighbors on an annual basis. This will allow Scott to process the warrant for the donation.

### **Recent expenses:**

\$275 for Saturday Strength Training Classes in January

\$130 for Foot Care in January

**Total recent expenses:** \$405

**Current balance:** in grant line, \$1,087.03

in contribution from Town: \$200

No information has been received about the grant. The Governor's FY 2022 budget proposes a reduction per senior from \$12 to \$9, but Bernhard thinks that the amount we receive, as a small community, will remain the same. Scott noted that a Mass Council on Aging document she had seen indicated that the likely increase in numbers of seniors in the State means that there may well be cause a decrease in the amount per senior for the larger towns and cities receive.

**Minutes of the Meeting of January 13, 2021:** Motion to approve the minutes as presented in a second draft was made, seconded, and passed unanimously by roll call vote.

**Document Review:** "How to be prepared for a medical emergency involving you or your family members" by Bernhard was discussed by the COA. Security issues of suggesting the preparers share passwords for WIFI, cell phone and bank accounts might be addressed by instead making a general statement about providing other significant information your emergency contact may need in order to

help you. Bernhard will look into a few other details in her draft and the COA will review a second version at the next meeting.

Bernhard wondered if this project might in fact tie into an upcoming virtual presentation by Village Neighbors (VN) on related concerns for seniors. Might we partner with VN on this topic in some way? Several COA members are planning to attend the virtual event.

**The COVID-19 Vaccine:** The COA discussed whether it should take any steps to help seniors in Shutesbury gain useful information about appointments for vaccinations. It was decided that the COA did not have a role to play, considering that the Governor's campaign had started to use TV to provide information, and a new phonenumber to help those without computers or computer skills. Moreover, a number of Shutesbury offices and sites are providing timely information. The Shutesbury Board of Health had information in the latest Town Newsletter, and effectively communicates the latest news about about vaccine availability by regular emails. The Town Clerk provides relevant information to those who contact her. The Town website has a pandemic information page. The Town Administrator provides information by Code Red calls.

**Open Meeting Law: A Refresher:** A reminder about email communications. A quorum is present when a response to an email from one person is sent to all. When A sends something to B which B then sends to C, a quorum is involved. These are breaches of open meeting law.

**The Age- and Dementia-Friendly Community Initiative:** As a member of both COA and VN, Millinger received a request from Nancy Spittle that she request the Select Board give Nour Elkhattaby Strauch, LifePath's Age-Friendly Program Manager, a space on a future agenda to describe the program and seek the Select Board's support. Millinger brought this to the COA, which requested Millinger seek a clearer statement on the program before COA agree to forward this request to the Select Board. Millinger will report at the next meeting.

**Motion to adjourn** was made, seconded and carried unanimously by a roll call vote. The meeting was adjourned at 6:36 p.m.

**Next Meeting: Wednesday, March 10 at 5:30 p.m.**

With many thanks for the assist with the minutes by Janis Gray,  
Respectfully submitted, Susan Millinger, secretary