

Council on Aging Minutes for Virtual Meeting of April 14, 2021

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.

Minutes of the Meeting of March 10, 2021: Motion to approve the minutes as presented was made, seconded, and passed unanimously by roll call vote

Business

Financial Update: Recent expenses:

\$480 for online Strength Training Class with Jay McWilliam

\$90 for Foot Care in March

Total recent expenses: \$570

Balance as of March 11 was a (corrected) \$406.44.

An unanticipated request arrived on April 13, a request from the Library Director, Mary Anne Antonellis, that the COA would help to extend the Zumba Gold class to the end of June, at a cost of \$500.

Status of grant: Scott reported that the formal contract has been signed by the Select Board and sent to Adam Frank at EOEA.

Since the Balance, including what remains of the grant funds not yet received, is roughly \$4,576, the **motion** was made and seconded "that the COA support the request to partner with the Library for the Zumba Gold class, ten sessions between the end of April and the end of June." The motion was unanimously approved by a roll call vote.

Scott reported that the COA had received a receipt from Village Neighbors for COA's grant to VN, and a note of thanks from its Treasurer, Don Stone.

Foot Clinic: A new issue was brought to the COA. Gomberg reported that two cancellations had recently been made at the last minute, and requested that COA develop a policy for last-minute cancellations. Footcare by Nurses (FCN)'s policy is that a client is dropped after two cancellations at the last minute. When regular clinics are held, this is not a problem, because of Gomberg's reminder calls and the existence of a waiting list. In the new proposal of charges of FCN's discussed at the last meeting, the Shutesbury COA would be charged \$20 for each last-minute cancellation. This topic will be discussed further at a later meeting.

MedRide: An inquiry has been made about when the COA's Med-Ride program will begin again. Bernhard reported on Village Neighbor's Med-Ride, which has recently resumed. The requirements: driver and rider must both be fully vaccinated; the seating arrangements are to be those recommended for COVID situations: the passenger in the rear on the right side; front window opposite driver and back window opposite rider to be open.

The COA will keep the question of resuming MedRides on the agenda for a future meeting.

Document Availability: Discussion of how best to make available “How to be prepared for a medical emergency involving you or your family members.” At the last meeting, it was decided that the document will be posted on the COA website, and the document and its presence on the website will be publicized in the next *Our Town* newsletter. This discussion continued. The suggestion was made that if there is not space for the whole document in *Our Town*, the newsletter could contain a teaser and a link to the document on the COA website.

Bernhard raised the question: Should it be available as a handout at Trash bag pick-ups? It was decided to wait until the May meeting, by which time it will be known whether there is space for the whole document in the newsletter. Trash bag distribution begins April 26; given the number of opportunities to pick up the bags, it does not really matter if handouts are not available until mid or late May. It was pointed out that a handout could contain other COA information on the reverse side, information the COA would like to place in its newsletter if we could produce one.

Proposal for a future agenda: Could the COA afford the cost of a professionally-produced issue of *The Geezette*? It may be a while before life in Town Hall is back to normal, enabling members to assemble the newsletter themselves.

Senior Housing: a preliminary survey: Discussion of the two surveys members had reviewed: the earlier COA survey, and the Wendell Housing survey. The value of the COA survey was pointed out: important new developments occurred after the survey: the Senior Lounge was renovated, the MedRide program and the Foot Clinic were initiated, and *The Geezette* was begun.

What should the survey be like? Elements from each of the two surveys reviewed should be combined. Wendell’s questions re services and amenities needed are useful, though they need to be updated. Services that Village Neighbors provides and the Shutesbury COA can’t provide should be omitted. Some demographic data is needed. There shouldn’t be too many questions, though.

It was decided to form a short-term working group to draft a survey for the COA to discuss. The working group of Scott and Bernhard will post the meetings and keep brief minutes. Each COA member is to send in her most important question; Makepeace-O’Neill will be individually asked to contribute. The **motion** was made and seconded that: The COA form a short-term survey working group to create a draft survey. Unanimously approved by a roll call vote. Members questions are due by April 26.

How should the survey be distributed? Through SurveyMonkey was suggested. Mary Anne Antonellis would be good to consult about this possibility. There could be both online and paper versions.

Motion to adjourn was made, seconded and carried unanimously by a roll call vote. The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, May 12 at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Susan Millinger, secretary