

Council on Aging Minutes for Virtual Meeting of May 12, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 5:33 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 April 14, 2021: Motion to approve the minutes as presented was made, seconded, and passed unanimously by roll call vote.

Business

Financial Update:

Grant Funds were received May 7, though though not yet posted.

Balance as of April minutes: what remains of grant fund for FY 2021: \$4,576

Recent expenses:

- \$280 for Gentle Yoga with Jeanette Stockton (7 sessions at \$40/each)
- \$240 for Strength Training Class with Jay McWilliams for April (4 lessons at \$60)
- \$400 for Qi gong with Michelle in March and April (8 classes at \$50/each)
- \$190 for April Foot Clinic (2 clients each give \$30, 1 gives \$60, 1, \$70)

Total April expenses: \$1,020.

Balance as of May 12: \$3,556

Foot Clinic: Status update by Gomberg. Gomberg asked whether the COA had already decided to continue the current fee structure? In case we hadn't yet made a motion, a motion was made to continue the subsidy for home visits by Foot Care by Nurses through June. The motion was seconded and unanimously passed by a roll call vote.

MedRide: It was pointed out that COAs, unlike Village Neighbors, are not permitted to ask for vaccine status. Because of this, there is no way to be sure of the safety of rides.

The COA will keep the question of resuming MedRides on the agenda for a future meeting. When circumstances change, MedRides can be brought up again for discussion.

Senior Housing: a preliminary survey: The members expressed appreciation for the excellence of the draft survey produced since the last meeting by the working group of Bernhard and Scott, thanking them. The survey makes use of elements from the two local surveys the COA had reviewed. Discussion of the survey: it was suggested and agreed that the order of questions 10 and 11 should be switched, and a minor change should be made in the language of the new question 10. Question 17a is to be replaced.

Distribution of the survey was again discussed. The suggestion that Town Announce could notify people that it is about to be mailed was approved without a formal vote. Gray suggested folding an 8-1/2 x 14" piece of paper to make a "self-mailer." Would this work? Can we use the bulk mailing permit? The possibility of including it in *Our Town* discussed before is finally rejected in favor of mailing it out

separately. It was again suggested that SurveyMonkey could be used to make available an online version.

Bernhard wisely suggested that there was no need to rush to distribute the survey, and since this is a very busy and therefore stressful time in Town Hall, it would be better to wait for a less busy time for its distribution. The group agreed.

In the next meeting, there will be reporting on tasks accomplished, but no discussion of distribution plans. The tasks:

Linda will send out to the group the revised format.

Janis will experiment with page size.

Linda will then be able to talk to Ken Adams of Adams Direct Mail Service

JoAnn will look into SurveyMonkey

Unanticipated business:

Janis said there might be space for the "How Tos" document in the next issue of *Our Town*. Time will tell. COA agrees it should be included if space permits.

EOEA has sent to the COA the *Massachusetts State Plan for Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias* and JoAnn agrees to read it and report back what it's about. The State is connecting Aging- and Dementia-Friendly programming.

Motion to adjourn was made, seconded and carried unanimously by a roll call vote. The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, June 9 at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Susan Millinger, secretary