

Council on Aging Minutes for Virtual Meeting on August 10, 2022.

Approved at meeting of 9/14/2022

The meeting was called to order at 5:33 p.m. A roll call identified those present: JoAnn Bernhard (JB), Susan Gomberg (SG), Janis Gray (JSG), Susan Millinger (SPM), and Linda Avis Scott (LAS). Guest: Martha Favre.

Minutes of the Meeting of July 27, 2022: a motion to approve the minutes of July 27 as presented was made, seconded, and passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

Business:

Updates:

Financial: MCOA Dues: \$230 were paid.

Current Balance (including the \$6,000 FY23 grant): **\$7,517.71.**

FootCare: No report.

Update from Village Neighbors (VN): No one from Village Neighbors was present to give an update.

Discussion of *The Geezette*: Discussion of the draft sent from the editor, JSG. The consensus was that the draft was on the whole excellent, though we had questions about a few aspects.

SPM suggested that in several articles, Village Neighbors (VN)'s actions in this area could be added, if that were appropriate.

All agreed that the article on reduction of taxes for seniors was hard to follow. It was feared that if it should be the sole front-page article, readers might not be encouraged to read further in *The Geezette*. It was decided to split the front page between this piece and the more reader-friendly article on food resources. It was also decided to introduce the tax reduction piece with a brief note indicating the availability of the Administrative Assessor to answer questions and providing contact information. JB and SPM agreed to work on this note together.

It was suggested that *The Geezette* could also include the information that the Board of Health had a limited number of COVID tests available.

All further layout decisions were left to the editor, JSG.

Work on the mailing list: LAS has continued to build on the important work done by JB: by identifying couples, she has been able to reduce 767 different mailing addresses to 517. LAS reported that Ken Adams of Adams Direct Mail Service uses a program of the US Mail Service which will further reduce the size of the mailing list.

Food Resources Issues: What needs further publicity? The Nutritional Support Program has been covered in depth in *The Geezette*; additional publicity is not needed.

However, LifePath's Farm to Home program does require publicity to emphasize the urgency of applying to fill the 3 or 4 slots still open for Shutesbury. LifePath recently notified the COA that soon, slots

allotted to a town that have not been filled will be allotted on a first come first served basis to people from any town in LifePath's area. LAS will send a message on Town Announce.

JB reported that the Library Director is having trouble finding volunteers to deliver the boxes of food provided by the Amherst Survival Center. JB suggested that the Library Director be invited to the next COA meeting to determine whether Shutesbury participation in this program should be stopped; since the program is supported jointly by the COA and the Library, consultation is necessary.

Reports and Notices: A brief article on COA will be produced by LAS and JSG for inclusion in the next issue of *Our Town*.

SPM has volunteered to draft the COA's Annual Report for FY22 as long as JSG agrees to proofread it. It is due in late November.

JB will again produce the COA's annual report to Mass EEOA. For this she needs the number of hours members have spent: in COA meetings, in other meeting for COA (e.g., Open Meeting Law; LGBTQ+ training, LifePath meetings including those on Age- and Dementia-Friendly Communities), and in preparing written work for COA (minutes, newsletters, etc.)

Vacancies/ New Members: Martha Favre has agreed to become a member of the COA. A motion was made, seconded, and passed unanimously to send a letter to the Select Board requesting that Martha be appointed as a member of the COA. Martha had a choice between a three-year term or a two-year term (completing Melissa's term); she chose a two-year term.

After Martha has been appointed, the COA will still have one vacancy.

Future Business: Transportation will be a future agenda item. It would be helpful to have a representative from Village Neighbors (VN) bring us an update on the possibility of bus transportation. SPM mentioned a recent article in an AARP newsletter indicating that research shows many seniors drive 7-10 years longer than is safe.

The possible parttime assistant mentioned at a previous meeting by the VN representative can only be discussed when a job description is available.

Motion to adjourn was made, seconded and carried unanimously by a roll call vote. The meeting was adjourned at 6:54 p.m.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, September 14 at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Millinger, Secretary

