

Council on Aging Minutes for Virtual Meeting of October 12, 2022.

The meeting was called to order at 5:51 p.m. A roll call identified those present: JoAnn Bernhard (JB), Janis Gray (JSG), Susan Millinger (SM), and Linda Avis Scott (LAS). Guest: Jeanette Stockton (JS) of Village Neighbors (VN). Absent: Martha Favre (MF) and Susan Gomberg (SG).

Minutes of the Meeting of September 14, 2022: a motion to approve the minutes of September 12 as presented was made, seconded, and passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

Business:

Updates:

Financial Update:

September FootCare: \$210 from the grant for five clients.

Current Balance: (including the \$6,000 FY23 grant less September expenditures): **\$5,453.46.**

FootCare: No further report.

Transportation Possibilities: Next Steps: The discussion continued from the September meeting. JS reported on a Select Board (SB) meeting's consideration of the provision of transportation for Shutesbury residents. The SB believes it is possible, but the SB needs to look into the situation, to see what might be available that is both satisfactory and affordable. The SB would contact both PVRTA and FRTA, since either could provide: PVRTA to Amherst and neighboring communities; FRTA to Franklin County towns. Given the small population of Shutesbury and the evidence of the prior survey which found limited demand, one or more regular routes seem unlikely. More feasible would be "demand access." LAS commented that demand access might not be terribly expensive, but that cost would depend on ridership.

Membership: JS is interested in becoming a member of the Council. LAS explained the steps by which one becomes a member. Given JS's continued interest and her attendance at several meetings, *a motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved to send a letter to the Select Board requesting the Board to appoint Jeanette Stockton to a three-year term on the COA.* LAS will give the information to the Town Administrator to pass on to the Select Board; JS will attend the next SB meeting.

Transitions: First, one co-chair, LAS, will be leaving town at some point in the future. She wishes to see the tasks she has performed taken over by other COA members, both to make the transition a smooth one, and also that she is still present to answer questions about these tasks.

Second, the other co-chair, JB, for health reasons hoped to resign as co-chair. However, because no one is willing to take over as chair, she has agreed to stay on for the time being. LAS and JB will work up a list of tasks done by the co-chairs so that the COA members can decide who will do what. So far, SG has agreed to check the phone line, and SM has agreed the host the zoom meetings.

The Age-Friendly Survey: Thanks to JS, we have the data from LifePath. Is LifePath going to sum up and comment on the data and present their results? The COA members need to see Shutesbury's data; LAS will prepare comments. By the November meeting, everyone will have looked at the data JS provided.

Trainings: SM attended the AARP's Age Friendly Communities Webinar on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion on Sept 13; she will report on it at the November meeting.

MF will be attending one of the sessions of MCOA's Racial Equity Institute Phase 1 Workshop

The Geezette: LAS will check with Accountant Gail Weiss to find our current financial status so that at the next meeting we can determine whether we can afford to produce another issue of the *Geezette*. If we can, both Sally Fairfield's interview with Chief Burgess and the survey results would be the main content. If we do produce another issue in FY23, in determining when, we will want to consider the three annual issues of *Our Town*, in the Winter (Dec or Jan), before Town Meeting and in the Fall (September) and perhaps also the bimonthly Village Neighbors newsletter, and their monthly "Happening," going out on the 15th of each month.

Unanticipated Topics:

A reminder of the due date of the Annual Report (end of November).

Fitness classes: The COA received an email from the Library Director about the future of fitness classes which will be discussed at the November meeting.

Should we drop MedRide as a program? To be discussed at the November meeting.

Kevin Rudden has resigned as Town Assessor: how should that affect the materials from the Assessor on the COA website?

Business for the November Meeting

In addition to all the business listed under Unanticipated topics:

- More thorough financial update with consideration of what we can afford to provide to help support fitness classes as well as another issue of *The Geezette*
- More information about transportation possibilities
- Survey data
- *The Geezette*
- The idea derived from MCOA newsletter about suggesting to the police that if they do not already have one, they might develop a process for finding individuals (especially those with dementia) who may be lost

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made, seconded, and unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 6:43.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Millinger, Secretary