

Council on Aging Minutes for Virtual Meeting of December 14, 2022.

The meeting was called to order at 5:34 p.m. A roll call identified those present: JoAnn Bernhard (JB), Martha Favre (MF), Susan Gomberg (SG), Janis Gray (JSG), Susan Millinger (SM), Linda Avis Scott (LAS). Absent: Jeanette Stockton (JS).

Minutes of the Meeting of November, 9 2022: *a motion to approve the minutes of November 9 as presented was made, seconded, and passed unanimously by a roll call vote.*

Business: Updates:

Financial Update: The COA has learned that we received a larger grant than expected from tExecutive Office of Elder Affairs (EOEA); the reason for this will be explained below:

Expenses from November:

FootCare by Nurses: \$300

Fitness Classes: \$760 for 2nd quarter

Total: \$1060.00

Grant Balance:

\$4,558.36 = 11.9.22 balance

+1,488.00 = addition to expected grant (of \$6,000)

\$6,046.36 = Updated balance

--1060.00 November expenses (see above)

= \$4,936.36 current balance

Anticipated expenses:

-\$1,277.50 Foot Clinic estimate Dec-June @ \$182.50/month

-\$550 estimate for Geezette issue.

Leaving: \$3,108.36 Unallocated funds

Cause of increase in grant: In the 2020 census, the number of seniors (i.e., all residents aged 60 or above) in Shutesbury rose from 312 (in 2010) to 624 in the recent census. This resulted in Shutesbury no longer being classified as a small town (500 or fewer seniors) and thus receiving the flat rate for small towns of \$6,000. Shutesbury is now subject to a different calculation, receiving \$12 per person for every senior *above* the base of 500.

The next *Geezette* issue: The goal is to have a draft of the whole newsletter at the January 11 meeting.

Planned Content:

- Sally Fairfield's article about the Police Chief has been sent to all in draft; JSG is revising it. The plan is to include a reference to the Chief's Sand for Seniors program, now in its second year. A photograph of the Chief has been obtained.
- MF has interviewed the new Fire Chief, Lenny Czerwonka, and has composed a draft article. She was advised to let the Fire Chief review it, and to ask for a photo the *Geezette* can use.
- JSG is drafting a piece on the Aging- and Dementia-Friendly Community Survey to include. What data from the survey should be included? One concern is the lack of response across the towns surveyed from the population 80 and above. How big is that population in town?

- Briefer pieces will be included on
 - FootCare by Nurses
 - Alternatives to the COA's MedRide program, currently not operating. SG pointed out that in the *Silver Line*, LifePath's printed collection of resources for seniors, the only resource listed for Shutesbury is MedRide!
 - LifePath's information on scams in the context of LifePath's weekly newsletter. Shutesbury residents need to know about this newsletter, available online and in printed form, with its useful information on all sorts of topics of interest to seniors.

Transportation Possibilities: Continuing: The COA continues to wait for the Select Board to get needed information; the Select Board is also waiting for information. LAS suggested that the COA let the Select Board know that if such a letter would be useful, the COA would be happy to write a letter of support for public transportation from Shutesbury to nearby towns.

Brief Report on Training: MF reported on the DEI training she attended, sponsored by the Massachusetts Council on Aging (MCOA). MCOA wishes one person from every Massachusetts COA to attend one of the weekend sessions. This was an intensive two-day event, given by the Racism Equity Institute based in North Carolina, which MF found excellent. She commented that the material was approached objectively.

It was difficult to summarize in a brief report the content of the Institute. MF mentioned looking at stereotypes of different classes and ethnic groups. She emphasized the attention paid to legal constructions that have produced racism, starting in the 1600s, when a wedge was drawn by laws between black slaves and white indentured servants, undermining earlier cooperation. Other examples were the WPA's grants for dams and the GI Bill's effective exclusion of African-Americans. The Institute recently sent out a workbook with a reading list for participants; MF is looking forward to this opportunity to reflect on and expand what she learned.

Future Agenda Items:

- A draft of the next issue of the Geezette is a goal for the January meeting
- Would we like to sponsor an educational virtual meeting with a speaker from LifePath?
- We need to find out whether giving money to Village Neighbors may represent a conflict of interest, given that the COA's members include a member of VN's Board and several regular VN members.
- A request to support 3rd quarter fitness programs may well come before the COA.
- Would we want to return to Town Hall for FootCare by Nurses when the weather gets warmer? Would SG please ask the Town Administrator what she thinks?

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made, seconded, and unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 6:44.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, January 11 at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Millinger, Secretary

