

Council on Aging Minutes for Virtual Meeting of January 11, 2023.

Approved at meeting of 2.8.23

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 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), and Jeanette Stockton (JS).

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

Business: Updates:

Financial Update:

Grant Balance as of December 14, 2022:	\$4,936.36
December expense: FootCare by Nurses:	\$140.00
Grant balance as of January 11, 2023:	<u>\$4, 796.36</u>

Anticipated expenses:

-\$1,095 00. Foot Clinic estimate January-June @ \$182.50/month

-\$550 estimate for Geezette issue.

Leaving: \$3,151.36 Unallocated funds

Request from Library Director: \$750 toward all the fitness classes

A motion was made, seconded, and passed unanimously by a roll call vote to give the Library Director \$1,000 towards third quarter fitness classes. LAS will email the Library Director of our decision.

The next Geezette issue: Two potential items emerged. The Biden Administration had just extended Health Emergency grants; it was not clear whether this extension also applied to SNAP emergency allotments. Suggestions were made about how to find out, since this would affect an article already prepared for *The Geezette*. Another suggestion was to include in this issue information about where people can go to lower electricity bills.

When JSG has her final PDF of the issue, it will be sent to the publisher. LAS has been making changes in the address list; it will be sent to JB to see if she can identify anyone else recently deceased. COA members are to send JB information about recent deaths of which they have knowledge.

FootCare Clinic: Can it go back into Town Hall? SG has talked with the Town Administrator, who said that because of the resurgence of COVID, the clinic cannot return to Town Hall for the foreseeable future.

The current FootCare nurse, Sue Miller, is retiring the end of January. Her successor will be Nancy Mead of **Wendell (?)** who starts in February. *A motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved by a roll call votes to send a letter of appreciation for Sue Miller's good work as a FootCare Nurse in Shutesbury for almost three years.* SG will draft the letter and send it to JB and LAS to proofread. Then SG will send it to FootCare by Nurses in the last week of January or the beginning of February.

Transportation Possibilities: Continuing: JB has been unable to reach the Town Administrator on this topic. JB has joined the Life Path Transportation Working Group (a result of the Aging-and Dementia-Friendly Survey) as has Elizabeth Fernandez-O'Brian from Village Neighbors (VN).JB will have a report from the Working Group at the next meeting, and the COA will need to discuss whether to write a letter urging the Select Board to act on this matter.

(FRTA's Demand-Response contract would be most suitable for Shutesbury. Negotiation would be necessary; there would be a financial cost.)

Village Neighbors and potential conflicts of interest: Three of the members of the COA are currently also members of VN, and one of the three is a member of VN's Board. This might cause a conflict of interest to arise. LAS told the group that if any questions arose about this, the COA should take them to the Town Clerk. We should check with the Town Administrator before consulting the Town Counsel,. If that seemed appropriate.

The COA can legitimately give money to VN when they provide services (as they do now) which the COA is not providing.

JS, who is a member of the VN Board, said she would be happy to recuse herself from discussion and not vote in matters involving the VN.

Possible Future Speaker from Life Path? JS mentioned that a LifePath person had visited VN to talk about what LifePath offers. Suggestions from the COA members about a possible program by LifePath or another source on:

- physical activity for seniors
- palliative care and hospice, a big draw several years ago
- dementia
- what LifePath offers

COA homework: think about possible programs for discussion at the next meeting. Reminder: if you want to make suggestions, make them to an individual, but not to the whole group.

Additions to our mailing list: Both Police and Fire Chiefs, Life Path, the Library Director; Village Neighbors.

Future Agenda Items: The February meeting will include JB's report on transportation and a discussion of a possible public presentation.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made, seconded, and unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at ? I regret to say the secretary did not note the time!

Next Meeting: Wednesday, February 8 at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Millinger, Secretary

