

Council on Aging Minutes for Virtual Meeting of February 8, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 5:33 p.m. A roll call identified those present: JoAnn Bernhard (JB), Martha Favre (MF), Janis Gray (JSG), Susan Millinger (SM), Linda Avis Scott (LAS), and Jeanette Stockton (JS). Tracy McNaughton (TM) was a visitor, as was Rebecca Torres (RT), Town Administrator

Minutes of the Meeting of January 11, 2023: *a motion to approve the minutes of January 11 as presented was made, seconded, and passed unanimously by a roll call vote.*

Business: Updates:

Financial Update:

Grant Balance as of January 11, 2023:	\$4,796.38
January expense: FootCare by Nurses:	\$190.00
Grant balance as of January 11, 2023:	<u>\$4, 606.38</u>

Anticipated expenses:

-\$ 912.50 Foot Clinic estimate February-June @ \$182.50/month
-\$ 550.00 est. for Geezette issue.

Anticipated total: \$1,462.50

Unallocated: \$3, 143.88

Expected but not yet billed: -\$1,000 towards fitness classes, voted 1/11/23)

Leaving: \$2,143.88 Unallocated funds

Membership matters: Long-time member Susan Gomberg (SG) submitted a letter of resignation to the Select Board and the Town Clerk. She is, however, willing to continue to monitor the COA phone line, now as a volunteer. If and when the Foot Clinic returns to Town Hall, SG will also be willing as a volunteer to return to her earlier work as its manager. MF volunteered to take over the in-person Foot Clinic if SG is unable to do so; LAS suggested that, if in-person resumes, SG train MF how to run the clinic.

A motion was made, seconded and unanimously passed by a roll call vote to accept SG's letter of resignation effective January 21, 2023. JB will draft a letter thanking SG for her service and send it to LAS.

The recent *Geezette* issue: Positive feedback has been received for the recent issue; the lead articles on the new Police and Fire Chiefs were especially well-received.

-Two people have requested receiving *The Geezette* by email. There is a special folder containing requests for emailed newsletters.

Our Town proposed article from the COA. Suggestions were made to clarify the text about the ending of special Pandemic-era extra SNAP benefits. SM thinks that Governor Healey is proposing to provide transitional state money to ease the transition away from the federal benefits: this will be checked.

Public Transportation Possibilities: Consideration Continues. JB is a member of LifePath's Transportation Working Group, as indicated in the January minutes. Its members also include Meg Ryan of LifePath and Elizabeth Fernandez-O'Brien of Village Neighbors. The group is looking at relevant data from the Aging- and Dementia-Friendly survey and creating statements of the problems. JB reports that a major problem is that the larger towns currently have a number of transportation options, while the smaller towns have no transportation except by car. Another problem is that public transportation is organized by county: Franklin County has FRTA (Franklin Regional Transit Authority); Hampshire has PVTA (Pioneer Valley Transit Authority). Shutesbury is in Franklin County, but on the border of Hampshire, where Shutesbury residents tend to shop and have medical appointments.

The Town Administrator, Rebecca Torres (RT), joining the meeting, said that county lines are definitely an issue. RT pointed out that relationships with the Transit Authorities are managed through the Towns. RT emphasized that Shutesbury could be served by only ONE of the Transit Authorities.

The first question to ask is what services the community wants: a survey organized by the COA will seek those answers. The second question is what the two Transit Authorities offer that meets residents' needs. To get these answers, RT will set up two meetings, one with FRTA and one with PVTA. JS and JB volunteer to attend these meetings. RT also encouraged the COA to talk with Leverett, which like us is in Franklin County, but has PVTA services. The COA should Contact Leverett's Town Administrator to find the person who is most active in pursuit of transportation services in that Town. JB volunteered to do this.

The Transportation Survey: Discussion about it begins. Visitor Tracy McNaughton pointed out that people with disabilities qualify as well as senior citizens for these services, so should be included in the survey. Could we include a simple one-page survey in the spring issue of *Our Town*?

Next time:

- Potential programing.
- Information about legislation aimed to help seniors financially (SM to report.)

A motion to adjourn was made, seconded and unanimously passed by roll call vote.

Adjournment at 6:54 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Millinger, Secretary