

Council on Aging Minutes for Virtual Meeting of October 11, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 5:36 p.m. A roll call identified those present: JoAnn Bernhard (JB), Martha Favre (MF), Janis Gray (JSG), Susan Millinger (SM) and Linda Avis Scott (LAS); Jeanette Stockton (JS) arrived in time for the Financial Update; she had been waiting in the Waiting Room.

Minutes of the Meeting of September 13, 2023: Motion to approve these minutes was made and seconded. A small change was approved, then *the motion as amended was passed unanimously in a roll call vote.*

Minutes of the Meeting of August 9, 2023: Were again passed over for consideration at the next meeting.

Business:

Grant Update: The Executive Office of Elder Affairs (EEOA) announced the grant formula for FY24, which for Shutesbury should mean a grant of \$7,994.00. (See the minutes of Sept.13 for the new grant per senior for towns with more than 500 seniors.) Co chair JB corrected the budget figures of the September meeting in her financial update.

(Corrected)Financial Update:

Funds from FY23: \$1,778.43

EEOA Grant: \$7,994.00

Funds Available: \$9,772.43

Financial Snapshot as of October meeting

Footcare, July-Sept	\$547.00
MCOA dues:	\$230.00
Library Fitness classes:	\$1,500.00
<u>Village Neighbors grant:</u>	<u>\$1,000.00</u>
Total:	\$3,277.00

Amount Remaining available for expenditure: \$6,497.43

Some general discussion of upcoming expenses followed, such as the expense of the Smartphone Skills workshops; issue(s) of the Geezette; Library Fitness classes in the second half of year.

The Smartphone Skills Workshops: MF gave an update on the status of the workshops. As of 10/25, six had signed up for the iPhone workshop; two more were on the waiting list. MF is going to ask the instructor, Barbara Friedman, if she could add those two. The Library Director said five had signed up for the Android workshop. There are two more weeks before registration ends, so there may still be a need for additional workshops.

A survey is being sent out to determine the level of skills or goals for the workshops of those who have registered: MF read the questions.

JB pointed out that people need to come with their cellphones fully charged and that Friedman may need an extension cord. Friedman has the needed cable, as does Town Hall.

Website Preview: The subject continues to be the tabs that JSG is working on. The COA website was screen-shared, so its contents could be reviewed. Various suggestions were made about possible tabs: the Age-Friendly Community; LifePath: what it is and what services it offers; Medical Resources; Nutrition Resources; Healthcare; Homes/Housing; Transportation; Taxes or Finances (referring people to the Assessors page); perhaps Resources for the Visually Impaired; JSG's article in the Geezette about sources for borrowing equipment needed for health problems. Some of these suggestions might be better as subheadings under a tab.

Peace of Mind Binder: A good topic for the next Geezette? Suggestion that "power of attorney" can mean different things; does the phrase need clarification? MF plans a revision.

Annual Report: The administrative secretary will send out a reminder notice; the Annual Report is usually due in late November. The COA secretary plans to draft it in time for review by the Council.

New Co-chair: The departure of LAS for Washington State leaves the COA in need of a co-chair. It is moved and seconded that Martha Favre become co-chair. The motion is supported by 6; MF abstains.

Sincere thanks to Linda Avis Scott for her many years providing leadership to the COA, and very best wishes are extended to her.

Unanticipated Items: JSG agreed to be responsible for letting people enter the meeting from the Waiting Room; the secretary is finding it challenging to both take notes and keep an eye on the waiting room.

Next Meeting: October 11 at 5:30 p.m.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made, seconded and passed by a unanimous roll call vote. The meeting was adjourned at 6:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Susan Millinger, Secretary