

## **Minutes of the Council on Aging, May 14, 2025**

### **Approved at the COA Meeting of June 11, 2025**

Meeting Came to order: 5:35 p.m.

**Present**, identified by a Roll call: Mary Jo Johnson (MJJ), Jessica Makepeace (JM), Susan Millinger (SM). Jeannette Stockton (JS) was late. Guest, Simonne Westort, by cellphone.

**Minutes:** *A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the April 9<sup>th</sup> meeting. The motion was unanimously approved by a roll call vote.*

**Footcare Interview:** Since a potential footcare provider was here to be interviewed, we turned first to interview Simonne Westort, whose business is Toes in the Sand Footcare. Simonne is the footcare provider for Heath Senior Center's Footcare clinic, and provides footcare for residents of the Northampton Housing Authority.

Questions were asked about the services she provides her clients, and her schedule at the Heath Clinic. Usually she sees each client for twenty minutes; she is likely to spend twenty-five minutes with clients whose feet have more problems. When she encounters feet that need more care than she can provide, she refers clients to a physician. Her charge is \$20 per client. She has an eight-hour day at Heath, but said she would be fine with one half as long. JS arrived in the middle of the interview, so she had an opportunity to get her questions answered.

After Ms. Westort left, the chair indicated that her references stated that her clients love her; her work is certainly more than satisfactory. *A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved in a roll call vote to end Shutesbury's relationship with Footcare by Nurses and begin to employ Simonne Westort, whose business is Toes in the Sand.*

The chair is to communicate the COA's decision to FootCare by Nurses to end our relationship after the June 18 Foot Clinic.

**Financial Report** was combined with discussion of budget for the rest of FY25. The treasurer, JM, reported that the Town Accountant charges Council expenses to all three accounts. Consequently, the Treasurer does not know the state of each account until she receives the report from the accountant.

JM stated that she thinks the situation is that

- The COA has donated to the Library Director \$1500 for fitness courses.
- The COA has decided what to give to Village Neighbors. *A motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved in a roll call vote to donate \$750 to Village Neighbors (VN) now, with a following \$250 if the money is available at the end of FY25.* JS will send COA members the chart that demonstrate that Shutesbury receives more services from VN than any of the other three towns; that Shutesbury also provides the most volunteers.
- The COA needs to consider a newsletter before the end of FY25. It will be included in the agenda for the June meeting.

**Interviewing a possible new member:** No one was at the meeting, but MJJ introduced Jenn Avery, who is interested in joining, and has skills we need since the loss of Janis: in newsletter and website. MJJ will follow up with her.

**Update on Neighborhood Dementia Support** presented by JS. The NDS organizing committee, which includes JS, SM and Martha Favre, has been working on publicity and is about to move on to planning program.

**Update on Digital Equity Grant.** SM reported that Gayle Huntress, author of the grant, was looking for another event, like a workshop series, to fill an unexpected gap in the application. SM then consulted former chair Martha Favre, who had organized the successful smartphone workshops the COA offered in the fall and spring. Martha contacted that instructor, Barbara Friedman, who provided information on several different series of classes she has taught. One was selected and sent to Huntress.

Also: SM learned from Huntress that no money from the grant was to be expected until fall or even winter.

**Unanticipated business:** Possible change to a different meeting day. Jenn Avery cannot meet on a Wednesday night. Discussion of possibly changing to a Monday night, if the prospective new member could meet then.

Precise time of Adjournment: around 7 p.m.