

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Shutesbury Council on Aging
October 8, 2025
Approved at the meeting of November 12, 2025**

1. Meeting called to Order, October 8, 2025 at 5:34 p.m.

Members present: Identified in a roll call: MaryJo Johnson (MJJ), Jessica Makepeace (JM), Susan Millinger (SM), Jeannette Stockton (JS) and Rich Strangman (RS). Guest: Mary Lou Conca

2. Welcome to new Member, Rich Strangman

Business:

3. Minutes: A Motion to approve the September minutes was made and seconded, and the Minutes of September 10 were unanimously approved in a roll call vote.

4. Financials:

Note: The grant from AGE has not yet been received. SM agrees to check with AGE before the November meeting if we have not received the grant before then.

A. Financial report as of October 8

Starting Balances:

Grant: \$885

Revolving Account: \$845

Town Budget: \$200

Expenses:

July Footcare \$180

September Foot Clinic: \$180

Fees paid (aka donations contributed): [Note: the secretary suggest changing the terminology because the annual report for AGE refers to fees.]

For September Footcare: \$165

Ending Balances:

All Accounts Total: \$1,939 [JM varies \$3 in her records from the Accountant's.]

B. Request to approve \$100 donation to the Town Decade Birthday Celebration

A motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved in a roll call vote that \$100 be given to support the Town Decade Birthday Celebration.

5. Report on Special Town Meeting: In the meeting of September 30, the warrant article proposed by the COA, to return the membership to the original 5, was passed.

6. September/October Issue of *The Geezette*:

a. Production: JS reports that Dina Polizzi is absolutely willing to lay out the newsletter.

1. Motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved to ask Dina to lay out the next two issues of the newsletter.

2. After discussion of who would do what, it was agreed that all pieces written for the newsletter would be sent to JS, who will enter them into a Google Document, and give all members access to it.

3. Open Meeting rules affect the making of comments and editing of the document. Town Administrator Bolton has clarified the impact of the rules in working in Goggle docs. Comments can be made, but not discussed on-line.

b. Content: Discussion of who outside the COA would be asked if they would be willing to write a piece. Suggestions made and approved: Sarah Fiske, the Public Health Nurse; new Town Administrator Hayley Bolton. Also, Sally Fairfield, but it was thought that Sally would need more lead time.

c. Mailing list: A list of residents born in or before 1965 is to be sought. In the past, the list was analyzed to reduce the number of mailings, and thus cost, by mailing to only one in a household. The list has in the past also been checked to omit anyone who has moved out of town or died. The Town Administrator and the Administrative Assistant are to be asked about how to acquire a mailing list, since the temporary Town Clerk has limited time in Shutesbury.

7. Current Programs update:

a. Community Lunch: brief report. 18 attended.

b. Footcare Clinic: 10 clients

c. Neighborhood Dementia Support (NDS). Brief report on third presentation on “The ABCs of Dementia” on zoom. About 30 people attended. Coming up on next Wed., October 15, an in- person presentation of the topic at Leverett Library, 1-2:30 p.m. In November, our first Memory Café will be held in Wendell, led by Nancy Spittle.

8. Updating the webpage. It needs to be brought up to date, with deletion of no longer relevant materials. How do we gain access? The web committee chair, Gail Fleischaker, needs to be consulted. MJJ volunteers to do the updating.

9. Senior Lounge Fix-up: A Work party is arranged to clean up and rearrange the back portion of the Senior Lounge (to make it more attractive for conversation.) A memory wall with pictures would be a good addition. At least one wall panel is a bulletin board, while another is a chalk board. Date of work party: November 1; time, 10 a.m. Guest Mary Lou Conca would like to join the work party; she is welcomed to do so.

10. Unanticipated business: MJJ is asked if she’s ready to give a report on the two committees of which she is a member. MJJ reports each has met two times and has made good progress. She’ll give us a more detailed update next meeting.

11. Next Meeting: Wednesday, November 12 at 5:30 p.m.

12. Adjournment: Motion to adjourn the meeting is made, seconded and passed unanimously in a roll call vote.

Meeting adjourned at 6:37 p.m.

Respectfully,
Susan Millinger
Secretary