

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Shutesbury Council on Aging  
January 14, 2026  
Approved at the meeting of February 11, 2026**

**1. Meeting called to Order, January 14, 2026 at 5:33 p.m.**

**2. Members present:** Identified in a roll call: MaryJo Johnson (MJJ), Jessica Makepeace (JM), Susan Millinger (SM), and Rich Strangman (RS). Absent: Jeannette Stockton. Guest: Mary Lou Conca joined us midway through.

**Business:**

**3. Minutes of November 12, 2025.** Motion to approve the minutes as presented was made, seconded, and approved unanimously in a roll call vote.

**4. Financials:**

**A. Financials as of January 14, 2026**

*Beginning Balances*

Grant. \$5115.72

Revolving account \$1040.00

Town budget \$200

*Expenses*

November foot clinic \$200

December foot clinic \$220

Geezette printing and mailing \$668.18

Geezette designing (Dina Polizzi) \$118.75

*Account receivables*

Foot Clinic Fees paid by clients

November Clinic \$190

December Clinic \$158

*Ending balances*

Grant \$3908.82

Revolving account \$1388

Town budget \$200

**All accounts total: \$5496.82**

**5. Update on Current Programs and reports on committees on which the COA is represented:**

**1. Current Programs:**

**a. Community Lunch:** brief report. 19 attended on January 6, largest attendance yet.

**b. Footcare Clinic:** 12 clients on January 14. Clinic held on second Wednesday because the provider was on vacation on the third Wednesday.

**c. Neighborhood Dementia Support (NDS).** The Steering Committee is focused on preparing a grant for a second year. There will be a second presentation, this time on zoom, on "Optimizing Brain Health as we Age," with new material. Date: January 21.

**d. Tech Talk.** Five people attended the first, which met in the Senior Lounge. Barbara Friedman, the leader, wants to use the equipment in the large Meeting Room in the future. We would need Hayley or Brennan to be available to help with the equipment. RS will prepare a new flyer for the second Tech Talk. JM will provide snacks for the meeting on Jan 28.

**2. Reports on the two ad hoc Committees on which the COA is represented**

**a. Search for new police chief.** Two candidates have been presented to the Select Board.

**b. Reuse for the old Library.** The committee is still looking at what's possible. Getting water and septic would be necessary for some uses. Would it be cloethe Church's? One

consideration is looking at uses for the old Library in connection with reconfiguring space in Town Hall. A number of town needs are being considered, including space to store town documents and a bigger space for the police. At some point the community at large will be asked for input.

**6. Responsibility for the COA's webpage** has changed. Thanks for MJJ for being willing to take it on, but who has been busy with committee work. Thanks to RS for agreeing to take over.

**7. Valentine Day tea for seniors hosted** by the students on February 13. Jessica Belanger Carlson's email on the event is presented. Members think this is a great idea. Jessica plans to attend Community Lunch in February to invite people to attend. She will have a flyer for each table and extra flyers to take to spread the word.

**8. Unfinished old business:** No progress has been made on the idea of a food pantry in Town Center.

**9. Unanticipated business.** The COA received a letter asking for its advocacy in a situation involving the Town's policy on plowing and sanding private roads at Lake Wyola. MJJ has been investigating. She agrees to draft a letter the COA can send to the Town Administrator; we will have a special meeting to discuss and approve the letter if desired.

**10. Next Meeting:** Special meeting on Tuesday, January 20 at 5:30.  
Next regular meeting: Wednesday, February 11 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 7:03 p.m.

Respectfully,  
Susan Millinger  
Secretary