

Council on Aging Minutes for Meeting of September 11, 2019

Present: Linda Avis Scott, JoAnn Bernhard, Susan Gomberg, Janis Gray, and Susan Millinger.

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 p.m. by the co-chairs JoAnn Bernhard and Linda Avis Scott.

Business:

Minutes of the Meeting of August 14, 2019: After discussion of the August minutes, a motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes as corrected. The motion passed. It was decided that if, after the meeting, the secretary finds relevant information like the websites found for senior housing materials discussed in the August meeting, it should be included as an addendum after the statement of the adjournment of the meeting.

Updates:

-Community Lunch: There was a good turnout of ten people at the August 3 lunch.

-Med-Ride: Elaine Puleo, who is coordinating Med-Ride, will develop a spreadsheet containing the numbers of drivers, passengers, and rides. This data will be useful for future reports.

-Foot Clinic: Continuation of the previous discussion of encouraging clients to sign up for every other month, unless the nurse judges that the client should be seen monthly. There are waitlists for both August and September, so this has become an important issue. Given the existence of waitlists, Susan Gomberg will be diplomatically informing clients that unless the nurse requests them to come monthly, those who wish to come monthly will be given an appointment in two months, and be put on the waitlist for the next month. Priority, however, must be given to new clients. It was agreed that there is no reason to provide more than the sign-up sheets for the next two months. Sign-up sheets for the third month could be made available if necessary, because of a client's travel plans.

This protocol will begin in October; the October COA meeting will decide on the language of the new protocol.

Clients' privacy must be respected; there can be no babysitting during Foot Clinic in the Foot Clinic space.

Discussion of MACOA membership: The COA decided that it would not become a member of MACOA this year.

Grant Application: The Town Administrator expects to know by Friday, September 13, the amount of money towns our size will receive. Bernhard will create a spreadsheet for use in budgeting expenditures.

Annual Report: COA members were given a handout encouraging timely development of the annual report for fiscal 2019. Janis Gray volunteered to draft the report.

Newsletter: Sally Fairfield, the editor of *The Geezette* asked when COA would prefer the newsletter be published: the conclusion was in November. COA hopes that Fairfield will be able to be present at the October meeting.

Gray asked whether we could include death notices of Shutesbury residents in the newsletter. The topic was left until the October meeting.

-New Business:

COA Presence at Celebrate Shutesbury (September 21)

The COA agreed to include materials in the section of Celebrate Shutesbury dedicated to information about boards and committees, a section which is the brainchild of Town Clerk and Administrative Secretary. Med-Ride brochures and Newsletters are natural inclusions. Gray may be able to provide a screenshot of our webpage large enough to be useful.

New Franklin County program: The COA was shown a brochure describing a New Senior Volunteer Program based at Greenfield Community College, beginning this fall. GCC is in partnership for this with RSVP of the Pioneer Valley, a senior volunteer organization. Contact: www.gcc.edu/seniors or raperj@gcc.mass.edu or 413-775-1819.

A Guide for Board Members, written for COA members during Deval Patrick's administration, found in David Dann's COA files, was passed out.

Discussion of reading materials on senior housing was the last subject of the meeting. The very comprehensive nature of Goshen's study, drawn up by professionals and the small numbers (17) of the responses to Wendell's survey were emphasized. Members of the board expressed their interest in the subject.

The COA wishes to inform itself further, and will seek a speaker from the Franklin Regional Housing Authority. Since the COA meeting in October has a full agenda, such a visit could not occur before the November meeting. Town Administrator Becky Torres would be invited to hear this presentation.

Bringing the question before the Select Board is a necessary future step.

Next Meeting: October 9. Agenda includes:

- The *Geezette* Editor will be asked to attend to discuss plans for the newsletter
- Visit from the Town Clerk to talk about the census (at approximately 5:45)
- Visit from Mary Anne Antonellis, Library Director, and one or more representatives of the Recreation Committee to discuss program planning (expected around 6:00.)

Meeting adjourned, 7:11 p.m.

Next Meeting: Regular October Meeting, the second Wednesday, October 9, 2019 at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Susan Millinger, secretary