

Council on Aging Minutes for Meeting of December 11, 2019

Members present: Linda Avis Scott, JoAnn Bernhard, Janis Gray, Susan Millinger. **Guest:** Mary Anne Antonellis, Library Director

The meeting was called to order at 5:32 p.m. by Co-chairs JoAnn Bernhard and Linda Avis Scott. Gray agreed to record the minutes to spare Millinger, who was recovering from cataract surgery.

Business:

-Minutes of the Meeting of November 13, 2019 Motion to approve the minutes of November 13 as presented was made, seconded, and passed. Gray will email a digital copy to Town Clerk Susie Mosher. Scott will file a hard copy in the COA cabinet. Millinger will add copies of several other minutes that not yet been filed in the cabinet.

-COA Annual Report for FY19 The report was approved with revisions. In the course of reviewing the report, we noted that it might be good to add the Med-Ride policies to the program description on the COA web page in the future.

-Newsletter The cost of the Fall 2019 *Geezette* was \$9.98 in mileage and \$139.36 for postage. We noted the need for two corrections in future issues. The Foot Clinic begins at 8:30 a.m., not 9:00 a.m., and the Town Clerk's office number is 259-1204, not 259-1904. (See also note under "LifePath Council meeting update.")

-Community Lunch The December 3 lunch was cancelled due to heavy snow.

-Med-Ride A number of requests for rides were received in November, but thus far in December, it has been "quiet."

-Foot Clinic Gomberg had relayed to the COA the news that in November, she called everyone scheduled for appointments to remind them. Some had cancelled, so people on the waiting list could come. The December clinic is full, with two new clients. Three other people are on a waiting list. The January schedule is also full, but there is currently no waiting list. The invoice from Foot Care by Nurses in November was \$245. The clinic received \$190 in donations, requiring the use of some of our grant money to make up the difference. We will need to keep an eye on this expense line.

-Massachusetts Executive Office of Elder Affairs grant application Bernhard reported that Town Administrator Becky Torres told her she still had to complete "one piece," but intended to finish the application this week.

-LifePath Council Meeting update Bernhard reported a person in charge of the HomeCare program gave a presentation. People can refer themselves to the program, as can their families. LifePath will send someone to the home to make an evaluation and let them know what can be provided, which can range from meals on wheels to a visiting nurse, even 24/7 care. There are no income limits, but there may be a co-pay. LifePath has four HomeCare case managers, who are geographically assigned.

We discussed how this could be mentioned in an upcoming *Geezette*, since some residents may not be aware of the program, and others may assume they need a physician's referral.

Bernard said she had also talked at the meeting with representatives from Leverett (Diana Bella, Elder Outreach Coordinator) and Wendell (Nancy Spittle, COA Chair). They are open to possible joint programming with us. Bernhard noted the Wendell COA has a food bank, and some other towns in the LifePath service area have "wood banks" using wood from trees cut down by their highway departments.

-M. N. Spear Library Mary Anne Antonellis, Library Director, joined our meeting at 6 p.m. She asked if the COA was willing to let her replace a low counter/cabinet on the south wall of the large downstairs room with a taller cabinet that could store all of the equipment for the fitness programs in one place. Millinger moved, and Gray seconded, that we authorize the removal of the low cabinet. Motion was unanimously approved.

Antonellis also asked if we could discuss possible COA support of additional library programming in the new year. Scott explained that we still don't know what funding we will receive from the state grant. We hope to have more information on the amount (as well as how much we will need for the foot clinic, given a drop in donations) at a future meeting.

-FRCOG Workshop on Age-Friendly Community Planning Gray attended the December 10 workshop in Greenfield. She gave a brief overview and said in the next week or so, LifePath would be emailing attendees its notes taken during the different sessions and break-out groups, as well as links to reports, surveys on senior needs, other documents, websites and additional resources shared by presenters. Gray will forward these to the rest of our COA. She had not yet had time to review and clean up her own notes, but said the workshop was very informative and would be helpful for our own exploration of senior housing and other needs in Shutesbury.

-Debrief of COA meeting November 13 with Brian McHugh, Franklin Regional Housing Authority After our meeting, Scott found a survey of seniors conducted in Shutesbury at some point in the past. She distributed copies tonight. She noted that McHugh had said we would need a (new) community needs survey. Bernhard said he'd also advised us of the need

to engage with other boards/departments in town. She suggested that in January 2020, we might want to have a working group meet to start looking at a survey, in addition to our usual monthly meeting.

McHugh had told us he would be in touch with our Town Administrator, and Torres has heard from him. Torres was reported to have responded positively about our next step (conducting a general needs survey), and said we could use the same electronic platform as the survey that was sent out to town residents about preferences for a date for town meeting. We would also offer a paper survey.

-Next Regular Meeting: the second Wednesday of 2020, January 8, 2020.

-Next COA Community Lunch: January 7.

-Next COA meeting: January 8.

Meeting adjourned, 6:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Janis Gray