

## **Council on Aging Minutes for Virtual Meeting of May 13, 2020**

The meeting was called to order at 5:32 p.m. by co-chair Linda Avis Scott.

Attendance was taken by calling the roll. Present: JoAnn Bernhard, Susan Gomberg, Janis Gray, Susan Millinger, and Linda Avis Scott. Absent, Melissa Makepeace-O'Neil. Guest: Mary Anne Antonellis.

### **Business:**

**Minutes of the Meeting of April 8, 2020:** Motion to approve as read was made, seconded, and passed unanimously by roll call vote.

### **Program Updates: Given the continuance of the pandemic, only one of the COA's on-going programs required attention**

#### **-Foot Clinic/Foot Care by Nurses**

Foot Care by Nurses, which staffs the COA's Foot Clinic, informed the COA of an offer of a discount for current customers who would like a home visit. Ordinarily a home visit would cost \$90; the discounted price would be \$60. It also informed its clients that the Greenfield office will soon be reopened; the cost of foot care there would be \$45. Details were provided of the precautions that would be taken in both home visits and at the Greenfield office.

Discussion ensued whether the COA would approve subsidizing a part of the cost of home visits (which are only available through the end of June.) There is a precedent for a similar subsidy. Shutesbury currently has seventeen clients of the Foot Clinic.

A motion was made, seconded, and passed unanimously by roll call vote that: "The Council on Aging subsidize the cost of one home visit by Foot Care by Nurses to Shutesbury current Foot Clinic clients up to \$30, through June 30, 2020."

Gomberg will contact the clients by phone to inform them of this opportunity. On these calls, she will ask for email addresses for future contacts. Scott will contact the office of Footcare by Nurses about payment details.

#### **New Opportunity for COA: Co-sponsorship of Amherst Survival Center's Senior Nutrition Program**

Library Director Mary Anne Antonellis visited to describe the Amherst Survival Center's proposal that during the pandemic, M.N. Spear Library serve as the distribution point for its Coordinated Site Delivery Program in Shutesbury. Seniors who self-identify as needing food would receive a monthly delivery, brought to their homes from the Library by volunteers. The Library has a history of feeding people (its occasional Friday night suppers at the Athletic Club) and has previously partnered with the Survival Center both as a drop-off location for the Neighborhood Food Drive, and a diaper collection site. Antonellis volunteered to be responsible for finding volunteer deliverers and for registering people, assisting with the Survival Center's forms. Antonellis thinks it appropriate and helpful to have the COA as a co-sponsor for the program.

Discussion about notification followed. Town Announce, Ecricket, Nextdoor Shutesbury, and Village Neighbors' newsletter were mentioned. The Police Department, the Fire Department and the

Community Church should all be notified. Antonellis will have printed information available at the Library and the Post Office.

The following motion was made, seconded, and passed unanimously by roll call vote: that "The Council on Aging will cosponsor the Shutesbury/Amherst Survival Center food delivery for seniors program that Mary Anne Antonellis is graciously willing to put in place and manage. The Council will pay for any expense occurred."

Bernhard will write up a description of the program which Antonellis will edit.

**Senior Fitness Classes: a new development**

The Library Director's online Fitness Classes now include Gentle Yoga with Kathy Sward. At \$65 per class, with seven classes from May 14 until June 25, the class will cost \$450. The COA had agreed to allocate \$500 for eleven classes at \$50; it has no problem with the supporting this series of classes.

**Report on joint meeting of COA members and Village Neighbor (VN) leaders** of the four Village Neighbor towns: Leverett, New Salem, Shutesbury and Wendell. Gray and Millinger, who attended for the COA, provided a brief report.

**Future topics of discussion:**

One significant point in the report on the joint COA/VN meeting was the suggestion of a shared COA newsletter. Given the lateness of the hour, it was agreed to discuss this further at a future meeting, when the *Geezette* editor could be present.

Also saved for future discussion: affordable housing.

**Motion to adjourn was made, seconded and carried unanimously by a roll call vote.**

**The Meeting was adjourned at 6:53 p.m.**

**Next Meeting:** Regular June Meeting, the second Wednesday, June 10, 2020 at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Susan Millinger, secretary