

Council on Aging Minutes for Virtual Meeting of July 12, 2023.

The meeting was called to order at 5:37 p.m. A roll call identified those present: JoAnn Bernhard (JB), Janis Gray (JSG), Susan Millinger (SM), Linda Avis Scott (LAS), and Jeanette Stockton (JS) Martha Favre (MF) was absent. Guests: Susie Mosher, Sandy Olken and Rebecca Wheeler.

Minutes of the Meeting of May 10, 2023: Motion to approve these minutes was made, seconded, and passed unanimously in a roll call vote.

Minutes of the Meeting of June 14, 2023: Motion to approve these minutes was made, seconded, and passed with seven in favor and one abstention in a roll call vote.

Business: Updates:

COA Financial Report 7.12.2023

FY23 Income:

\$1,602.71 Beginning Balance
7,488.00 FY23 EOE Grant (posted 10.31.22)
\$9,909.71 Total Available for FY23

FY23 Expenditures:

MCOA Dues: \$230.00
Village Neighbors Annual Donation: \$500.00
FootCare by Nurses LLC: \$2,300.00
Geezette (2 issues): \$781.28
Fitness Classes (Sward): \$3,625.00
Museum Passes: \$695.00

Total Expended in FY23: \$8,131,28

FY23 Summary:

\$ 9,909.71 Funds Available
- 8,131.28 Funds Expended
\$ 1,778.43 FY23 Ending Balance

FY24 Budget Planning Information:

\$ 1,778.43 Beginning Balance
\$ 7,488.00 FY24 EOE Grant
\$ 9,266.43 Total Available for FY24

And \$200 in the Town budget line.

Proposed New Project: Guest Susie Mosher described a new town celebration, a way to get a cross-section of Shutesburians together, by celebrating decade birthdays. This year, 2023, all born in a year ending in 3 would be asked to come together for a simple and joyous celebration. A parade organized by decades and simple refreshments are planned for September 10. The Select Board will be asked if the Town Common can be used for the parade.

Proposers asked the COA if it would be willing to sponsor the event, and to contribute to its expenses. Estimated cost is \$150. The proposers plan to send free notices on Town Announce and on Nextdoor Shutesbury, but there would be costs to have invitations printed and mailed to those with birthdates in 19/20-3. (172 people could be identified from Town Records, but the numbers of ten-year-olds and newborns are unknown.) The proposers expect the refreshments to be donated.

Members of COA thought it sounded like a fun celebration. The motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved in a roll call vote *That the COA co-sponsor the decade birthday celebration*. The proposers are also seeking the sponsorship of the Recreation Committee.

Budget plans for FY24: Items to include using FY23 costs:

MCOA Dues: \$230 in FY23

FootCare by Nurses: estimated \$2300, based on this FY23's cost

Gazette issues: two issues at \$400 each would be \$800

Library Fitness programs: estimated \$1,000/quarter

Village Neighbor has been given \$500 annually in the past; it is requesting \$1,000 for FY24

Total: \$7,830 (Grant: \$8,447)

There was some discussion of restarting MedRide, but given the COA's experience of declining numbers of riders and drivers, this did not seem a good idea. However, this means Shutesbury seniors who need rides will be depending on Village Neighbors.

Given these tentative expenses to be covered in FY24, the COA made, seconded, and unanimously approved by a rollcall vote *That the COA give \$100 for the decade birthday celebration from its Town line*.

The cochairs will bring to the August meeting a couple of possible budgets for discussion.

Transportation Survey Results: There were only twenty-four responses. More interest was shown in a Shutesbury-Amherst-Hadley-Northampton route than a Shutesbury-Greenfield-Turners Falls-Athol route. A common response was that a need for transportation was anticipated for the future, but there was little expression of current need.

JB described the South County acquisition of a grant (originated by MCOA) which pays for rides on PVTA and FRTA and pays the expenses of an existing van and driver. SPM suggested that a transportation-related grant might be available from AARP through the Age-Friendly and Dementia-Friendly Town program administered by LifePath.

Programming: MF has discovered that Hank Allen, our first choice for a presenter for Using Your Mobile Phone Is no longer living in the area. She has also discovered that a retired librarian, Barbara Friedman, likes to do this presentation and only charges \$50 for a session. The COA need to find out how many people a session she prefers and find out her schedule so that a time can be arranged. Also needed: to ask Mary Anne Antonellis if she would be willing to co-sponsor it (so we could benefit from her

reputation for excellent programs and her publicity skills). Where would we hold it: in the Senior Lounge? Plans for advertising need to be made.

This meeting was abruptly ended when another meeting preempted the zoom space. Therefore, the COA was unable to adjourn. The meeting ended around 6:55.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Millinger, Secretary