

**Council on Aging Minutes for Virtual Meeting of April 10, 2024**

**Approved at Meeting of May 8, 2024**

Meeting called to order at 5:34 p.m.

A roll call of those present: JoAnn Bernhard (JB), Martha Favre (MF), Susan Millinger (SM) and Jeanette Stockton (JS). Invited Guest Sarah Fiske was unable to attend.

**Minutes of the Meeting of March 13, 2024:** *A motion was made to approve as amended the minutes of the March 13, 2024 meeting. It was seconded and passed unanimously by a roll call vote.*

**Business:**

**Financial Update: as of April 9, 2024**

**Funding remaining:**

Unspent:	\$984.43		
EEOA grant (second half):	<u>\$3997.00</u>		
		Available to spend:	\$4981.43

**Anticipated expenses:**

Footcare:	\$1,112.00		
Fitness Classes:	\$1500.00		
<u>Geezette:</u>	<u>\$800.00</u>		
		Total anticipated	\$3422.00

**Expenses (drawn from Anticipated Expenses)**

FootCare Clinic (March):	\$260.00		
Geezette Invoice from Spring 2023 issue: (accidentally unbilled)	\$282.80		
<u>Adams Direct mail for printing and mailing March Geezette:</u>	<u>\$904.88</u>		
		Total	\$1447.68

Anticipated expenses (above):	\$3422.00		
<u>Less March expenses:</u>	<u>\$1447.68</u>		
		New balance for anticipated expenses:	\$1974.32

**Remainder available to be spent:** \$1,559.43.

Note: MF asked JS if she would remind the Library Director to submit an invoice for Fitness Classes.

**Rural Transportation Update**

1.The COA was reminded that Shutesbury residents could use FRTA (Franklin Regional Transit Authority) out of county service for medical visits in Hampshire County. (E.g, for

Amherst and Northampton appointments). These use volunteer drivers. The FRTA number is on our website. MF will check that it is there.

2. SM remarked that state legislators are working on a bill to expand rural transportation in western MA.

3. JB pointed out that the Select Board has approved that Shutesbury request FRTA's On Demand service, but that they need to be reminded to start the process by notifying FRTA.

4 JB asked that someone else take over Transportation, since this is her last COA meeting. Whoever would do this would work with Elizabeth Fernandez-O'Brien, who works on transportation for Village Neighbors.

5. Discussion. It was pointed out that veterans and those with disabilities are also eligible to use OnDemand.

### ***The Geezette:***

1. Making the binder available:

--JSG had previously suggested making some copies of the Binder and having them available at Town Meeting. This is planned.

--The Binder will be available separately on the COA website.

--Village Neighbors will be asked to publish the link in their newsletter.

2. Mailing list creation: As noted in the February minutes, creating a new mailing list is a laborious and challenging task. The Town Clerk thinks that next year the new computer system may make it easier to combine very different sets of data.

--MF will work on the list, especially looking to avoid mailing two to one household. MF received some complaints from households receiving two copies; she also heard from several people who want to receive the newsletter by email. Ken Adams identified 18 names that need to be stricken from the list.

### **Membership and Volunteers for programs:**

1. MF received information from the Town Clerk about asking the Select Board to appoint Jessica Makepeace a member.

2. Suggestion that we ask Leslie Luchonok if he would like to be a member of the COA.

3. Possible Volunteers: Dave Moser is interested in the MedRide program if we decide to start it again. Could Elaine Puleo provide ideas about restarting the MedRide program?

**Age Friendly Action Plan:** MF and JS will draft a letter to the Select Board to ask them to invite someone from LifePath (perhaps Lynn Friedman, in charge of the program) to talk about the Age-Friendly Action Plan and Shutesbury's potential role in it

### **Programming**

1. Coming program: A new workshop, Session II of "Using Your Smart Phone Smarter" taught again by Barbara Friedman will be offered on May 3. To be retitled "Smarter Use of Your Smartphone."

2. Ideas for future program: an exercise class: perhaps a balance class? Ask the Recreation Committee if they might be interested in co-sponsoring a program with us

**Unanticipated Business:**

FootCare Clinic: Is it time to return the clinic to the Senior Lounge? We're the only town in our area not back in a building. Our FootCare nurse could see more patients that way, and she is getting more requests for care since the article in the *Geezette*. We agreed to start the process of returning. MF will check with Susan Gomberg, who in the past offered to take charge of the FootCare clinic when we returned to Town Hall. We will need to schedule the room, and MF agreed to check with the Police Chief about her boxes, still in the Senior Lounge.

Losing a Valued Member: Saying goodbye to JB, who will soon no longer own property in Shutesbury. She received thanks for her many years of hard work in service to the COA.

**Next Meeting: May 8 at 5:30 p.m.**

**Adjournment:** *A motion to adjourn was made, seconded and unanimously approved in a roll call vote. Adjourned at 6:42*

Respectfully submitted, Susan Millinger, Secretary

Re the minutes of March 13: The secretary was instructed to add a note after the minutes to provide a link to the article in LifePath's newsletter of April 13, 2024 which provides a fuller introduction to LifePath's programs than was included in the March 13 minutes. Read it here: <https://lifepathma.org/wp-content/uploads/good-life/April-13-2024-The-Good-Life.pdf>