

Senior Center Board Minutes - December 12, 2024

Present: David Collins, Mary Mosley, Franklin Wayne Wickland, Janice Wright (Ashfield); Ellen Eller, Janice Fleuriel, Joanne Soroka (Buckland); Suzanne E. Bishop, Nancy Brewer, Sylvia Smith, Penny Spearance (Shelburne); Juli Moreno, Director.

Chair Janice Wright called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m.

Penny Spearance moved to accept the minutes of the November meeting with corrections; David Collins seconded the motion, which passed with two abstentions.

Treasurer Sue Bishop reported we're good on all costs. The Masons have sent a plan of action to deal with the building's rodent problem.

In her Director's report, an addendum to these minutes, Juli Moreno said the Board of Health has issued the Center's food permit. She also presented a letter she sent to the Shelburne Recreation Committee re: their decision to charge seniors a fee to walk in Cowell Gym, requesting that any such fee be postponed until the next fiscal year. This would allow her to "explore options for incorporating these costs" into our budget without jeopardizing the accessibility of the program. Juli said her focus and energies will be on the Transition.

Discussion of the proposed preliminary FY26 budget followed, which the Board of Managers (BOM) had approved and recommended to the Board of Directors. That prompted discussion of the "campus community" concept for rural areas with declining populations and why, with the campus still in the future, the Senior Center Foundation (SCF) can't help with "small expenses" in the present. It was recommended that we have a joint BOD and SCF meeting with a targeted agenda to discuss our needs. Board members will prepare a list of ideas for our next meeting. Nancy Brewer, David Collins, Joanne Soroka and Janice Wright volunteered to plan the upcoming discussion with the SCF.

Juli reported that Adams Printing delayed mailing of the SCF's appeal letter and our newsletter and we may end up having to print in New Jersey.

Sylvia Smith moved that the Board of Directors approve the preliminary proposed FY26 budget for the West County Senior Services District. Wayne Wickland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

The Ashfield COA held its last lunch of the year at the First Congregational Church and they don't use the space in January and February, making it a possible venue for events. It was mentioned that Buckland Town Hall can be a backup venue.

Penny Spearance reported that the Nov. 18 "Sweets & Stories" three-town Conversation Café was a lot of fun for the 10 people who participated. There were no other COA reports, and there was no SCF report.

Nancy Brewer moved to adjourn the meeting; Joanne Soroka seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

Next meeting: Thursday, Jan. 9, 2025, at 3 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Ellen Eller

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1/9/2025