

Senior Center Board Minutes: February 13, 2025

Via Zoom

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

Chair Janice Wright called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m. Penny Spearance moved to accept the minutes of the January meeting as written; Janice Wright seconded the motion, which passed with one abstention. Treasurer Sue Bishop reported that expenses were as expected.

Director Juli Moreno said she's focused on applying for more grants and getting us ready to become a District, including a budget and meetings with the towns' Finance Committees and Select Boards. The Center will be zooming some programs, such as Bones & Balance and Paper Play. Among other tasks, Outreach Coordinator Teddy Doucette has been working on Home Repair program coordination, facilitating the Caregiver Support group and Memory Café, holding outreach hours in Ashfield and Buckland, and offering fuel assistance management for seniors who need emergency deliveries. He's also meeting with Ashfield and Shelburne police to manage crisis situations and communicate seniors' needs.

According to Programming Coordinator Dot Lyman, 51 people picked up the New Year's Brunch and 60 accepted the Chinese New Year meal. Although Meals-to-Go are still very popular, the first indoor meal will be served March 25. Transportation Coordinator Bob Szafran, who plans to retire soon, reported they are down one driver. He will be posting for the position.

1402 Sylvia Smith reported that the Board of Managers (BOM) met with a software company and an accounting firm and they are working with town counsel Donna McNichol to discuss efficient ways to move forward. She said the BOM voted on a State Budget Request: "Provided further that not less than \$100,000 shall be expended for the West County Senior Services District of the towns of Ashfield, Buckland and Shelburne and the western Franklin County region for increased costs relative to the transition from the 'Consortium' to the 'District' pursuant to Chapter 42 of the Acts of 2022." Janice Wright moved to accept the request and Sue Bishop seconded. The Board of Directors passed the motion unanimously.

The Pizza/Name That Tune lunch was canceled due to bad weather and may be rescheduled. Sue Bishop spoke with the DA's office to do a program on fraud, which will take place in April. The Ashfield COA scheduled speakers for this spring. Penny Spearance said the Shelburne COA submitted a request for \$1,000. It was suggested that COA members keep track of volunteer hours, in terms of money the towns save.

286 Nancy Brewer reported that the Senior Center Foundation (SCF) has a balance of \$296,098.85. The Annual Appeal raised \$18,000 so far, and that money will go to the Senior Center above the regular \$10K. They will only have one appeal per year plus a fundraiser.

Janice Wright said the subcommittee met on Jan. 29 re: points to raise with the SCF. Penny said we should make sure that the SCF maintains a capital account for the Center.

The meeting adjourned at 3:42 p.m. Next meeting: Thursday, March 13, at 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Ellen Eller

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