

**The Senior Center
Ashfield*Buckland*Shelburne**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

Thursday April 11th, 3:00 pm

The Senior Center 7 Main Street Shelburne Falls MA

Present: Doug Field, Mary Mosley, Janice Wright (Ashfield); Janice Fleuriel, (Buckland); Suzanne E. Bishop, Nancy Brewer, Penny Spearance (Shelburne); Senior Center Director Juli Moreno.

Absent: David Collins, Ellen Eller, Roy Rudolph, Sylvia Smith, Joanne Soroka, Wayne Wickland

1. Call to Order Janice Wright called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m.

2. Secretary Report Approved unanimously with 2 changes as marked.

3. Treasurer Report Heat may be over but not nearly as much as anticipated. FRTA is probably over budget, but the contract needs to be renegotiated soon, so this can be addressed. The Masons meeting has not yet occurred; once the new master is elected and announced, we will work with him to set up a date.

4. Director's Report Juli provided highlights of her monthly report (the report gets posted on the website and she also sends it to the towns to post on their websites):

- Continuing active networking with Mass. Councils on Aging, local senior centers, and local police departments and businesses. Janice Fleuriel has replaced her on Lifepath Citizens Advisory Board.
- 1 more month for weekly computer classes – Internet Café teacher (Brian Maurer, Shelburne) will continue as a volunteer, but classes will end.
- Support groups going great. Infiniti has a few members and is getting opened up wider to Franklin County; if it gets too big, we will get a facilitator and a grant.
- Podcast equipment is secured and first installment done. Looking for a free way to post through Apple.
- Price went up for water aerobics at Buckland Recreation Area. We are doing a lottery for 1 person to attend free from each town
- Summer to-go meals will have 1 to-go and 1 at Buckland Recreation Area (we have to pay for facility use). Will start trying 1 on-site meal per month in September.
- Teddy's office hours at Buckland Town Hall and Ashfield Town Hall are working really well. He checks in with staff about any support/service referrals they are aware of.
- Lifepath Caregivers Support Group is growing – may have to look for more money for this.
- There is a respite group that will end – looking for a way to keep floating that.
- Numbers are rising in a lot of fitness activities.
- An extra footcare day has been added. Hopefully they don't raise rates; this is part of the Fred W. Wells grant, costing \$35 for in-town clients and \$45 for out-of-town clients, instead of \$55.
- Hybrid Programming grant includes Zooming activities; starting on that next.
- Still looking for a backup van driver; harder to find since it's just on call.
- Juli had a visit with the Conway COA; they may want to join with us.

Janice W. asked Juli if she could compile a grants overview with information such as start/end dates, purpose, and whether they're renewable.

Action: Juli will compile this.

Janice F. congratulated Juli on 2 wonderful years as executive director, as of this meeting date.

5. Committee Report BOM update from Janice F.:

- Regina Purinton is now the 2nd BOM representative from Buckland, so all positions are filled.
- BOM elected officers to serve until the transition is complete: chair – Sylvia Smith; vice-chair – Amy Shapiro; secretary – Janice Fleuriel. Will hold elections again once the District is active.
- Working on: drafting personnel policies; creating bylaws; researching insurance and retirement benefits continuation, and fiscal models for the local fire districts (Shelburne Falls, Buckland, Shelburne).
- Sylvia and Bob are watching the state budget legislation to see if the funding request is included.
- Someone who saw the BOM posting on the Senior Center door questioned Juli about the BOM using Senior Center letterhead; the group agreed this is OK because we're still operational as the Consortium.

6. COA's Report

- Ashfield's meeting was canceled due to snow. Juli praised Janice Wright's efforts to have luncheon speakers. Small church space is a limiting factor; they might opt for no lunch or tables and more chairs. The selectboard isn't allowing as much use of Blackboard Connect as before, which has had an impact.
- Penny reported that the 3 COAs ice cream social is May 17 downstairs at Mary Lyon Church in Buckland. The band Small Change will play (funded by Senior Center). Scooping starts at 5:30, and music starts at 6. No pre-registration is needed. This event has drawn about 30-40 people in the past.
Action: Penny started a list of items members will bring, and will finalize it and email it to the group.
- At Buckland's last meeting COA voted to have Town Administrator Heather Butler spend this year's Mass In Motion (MIM) funds; she is working on acoustic improvements for town hall's upstairs meeting space. COA and attendees discussed placement of the benches bought with last year's MIM funds; Jake Lowell (Buildings and Grounds) will help with locating and installing these at all 3 sites (Recreation Area/Cricket Field, Upper and Cross streets, Depot St./Liberty Tree area near Salmon Falls gallery).
- Summer Day on Buckland Common approached the COA about attending again this year. Juli wants Senior Center to have a space and will spearhead this.
Action: Janice F. will email the organizers to let them know Juli is the contact.

7. Senior Center Foundation Report Juli reported the Foundation will meet again on April 30th, location TBD.

8. Old Business None

9. New Business Juli requested having staff evaluations on the next agenda. She hasn't had an evaluation in the last 2 years. She wants to provide a framework of categories for feedback. Penny noted that in the past the Board of Directors created a goals-based evaluation with the executive director, geared to different positions (Shelburne's form was the same for all employees); nothing was finalized, but she has shared what was done with Juli for the BOM personnel policies work.

Doug noted a situation for area seniors to be aware of: a friend in Plainfield who had been taken to North Adams hospital wanted to be brought to Cooley Dickinson, and because North Adams is in the same federal category as Baystate Franklin and Cooley Dickinson, insurance wouldn't pay. It cost the person \$8,000.

10. Adjournment Penny moved; Suzanne seconded; unanimous; adjourned at 3:47 p.m.

Next meeting, May 9th, 2024 at 3:00 pm at The Senior Center.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice Fleuriel

