

SENIOR CENTER BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING – MAY 11, 2023

*Present: Doug Field, Mary Mosley, Janice Wright (Ashfield); Ellen Eller, Joanne Soroka (Buckland); Suzanne E. Bishop, Nancy E. Brewer, Sylvia Smith, Penny Spearance (Shelburne); Director Juli Moreno; Sylvia Orcutt (Senior Center Foundation).*

Chair Nancy Brewer called the meeting to order at 3:01.

Sue Bishop moved to accept the April 2023 minutes as submitted. Doug Field seconded the motion, which passed with one abstention.

Treasurer Suzanne Bishop reported that expenses are right on target. She said we have a bit of a surplus. We are negotiating with the Masons re: who will pay insurance and security.

In her Director's report, Juli Moreno said the Newsletter has been redesigned and printing was delayed because we now have color; deadline will be pushed up. The Center will be fully open at the end of the month with Roger Tincknell's "Beatles & Beyond" program. Juli said Teddy Doucette's outreach numbers are down a bit while he completes SHINE training, but Leanne Dowd will continue to do SHINE counseling.

Juli is partnering with the Office of Elder Affairs to get help through their "Gateway Towns" and Rural Communities resources. She has gotten us \$100,000 to supply seniors with communication equipment such as laptops and smartphones and she's trying to figure out where we are with connectivity/classes. The Center's picnic will be held at the Buckland Recreation Area on August 17.

Joanne Soroka reported that Buckland has joined the Mass-in-Motion initiative and is working to re-start a Neighbor-to-Neighbor program, involving some businesses and fun activities, including events at the Buckland Rec Area. Joanne has volunteered to be Buckland's representative to the Board of Managers.

There needs to be a meeting of the three towns' potential COA Managers to discuss organization, and to recruit three additional Managers.

The Ashfield COA will have a picnic in July. Doug Field said a group of town residents bought Elmers but they don't have the money to fix it up. It was mentioned that in Buckland whenever we use Blackboard Connect, we seem to lose people after every call. Doug said in Ashfield they get more.

Bottom line: we need to change people's perception of seniors and our intermunicipal partnership. It was noted again that we are pioneers; there's no district model, so we need to market ourselves better. Perhaps we can have promotional programs through Falls Cable.

Nancy Brewer reported the SCF has \$280,028.82. That board is discussing donor fatigue. Sylvia Orcutt has stepped up to be the SCF representative to the Center board.

Old Business: It was mentioned that the Legislature earmarked \$50,000 for the Consortium...but not the District. No resolution about how to get those funds.

New Business: It was suggested we can emphasize the diverse talents of local seniors with "What's My Line" and "I've Got a Secret" type programs.

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m. Next meeting: Thursday, June 8, at 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ellen Eller

*Minutes approved 6/8/2023  
by BoD*