

SENIOR CENTER BOARD MINUTES – JULY 14 2022

Present: Doug Field, Franklin Wayne Wickland, Janice Wright (Ashfield); Ellen Eller, Tony Jewell (Buckland); Sylvia Smith, Penny Spearance (Shelburne); Juli Moreno (Director).

Chair Doug Field called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

Sylvia Smith moved to accept the June minutes as written; Tony Jewell seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Director Juli Moreno said the budget is in good shape overall; she will be tracking monthly expenditures. There is \$4000 in restricted funds that's been sitting there since 2017 and may be available. In her Director's report Juli said we will be getting a new digital platform to replace our existing sign-in system. We started a new book club ("A Novel Idea") and she is hoping to start an Adventurers' Club. Also Outreach Coordinator Teddy Doucette has been in Ashfield every week and meeting with more people there.

Juli mentioned that there was a controversy at the Arms Library when someone would not wear a mask and became hostile with Library Director Laurie Wheeler, threatening a lawsuit. Laurie called the police, town officials and FRCOG to find out what to do, but apparently she cannot legally force someone to wear a mask. We haven't faced the same situation here but it may come up.

The Center received a mini grant from Mass DOT as well as the Lifepath grant for meals. Juli expects to hear about the Healthy Aging grant by the end of August.

In addition, Shelburne Administrator Terry Moser has a grant to talk to people over the age of 80 to monitor how they're doing.

Expansion Committee Chair Sylvia Smith reported that Dan Pallotta picked up certified copies of the West County Senior Services District documents and delivered them to the state. Sylvia said we're on the House Docket #3211; State Sen. Adam Hines and Rep. Natalie Blais have written letters of support and each of our COAs and this Board should provide letters of support as well. Sylvia will provide short templates we can follow; all members should sign the letters. It would be worthwhile to get letters from other residents who are not COA members.

Doug Field reported Ashfield held its annual picnic although the planned entertainment could not come.

Discussion followed about transition, and our infrastructure, which led to discussion of planning ahead. Penny Spearance suggested a "retreat" might be useful. We need to review our bylaws. It was decided that we should add "strategic planning" to our August meeting agenda. It was noted that future meetings may have to be hybrid, in person and virtual.

We held our election of officers for FY23. Wayne Wickland moved that secretary Ellen Eller cast a vote of consent for the slate as presented in June. Tony Jewell seconded the motion which passed with one abstention.

The meeting adjourned at 3:52 p.m. Next meeting: August 11 at 3:00 p.m. at the Center.

Respectfully submitted,
Ellen Eller