

SENIOR CENTER BOARD MINUTES – AUGUST 11, 2022

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

Newly elected Chair Nancy E. Brewer called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. and we welcomed new Buckland COA member Janice Fleuriel.

Penny Spearance moved to accept the July minutes as written; Janice Wright seconded the motion, which passed with three abstentions.

Treasurer Sue Bishop said expenses have been routine. Baker Office Supply will be bringing us a new photocopier and removing the old one.

Director Juli Moreno provided a printed report that included an itemized operating budget; word of a partnership with the Community Orchard (free plants and opportunities to host events there); updates about grants (e.g. LifePath Title III); hiring a back-up driver for FRTA; information on the new “A Novel Idea” book club and plans to start an Adventure Club. Outreach Coordinator Teddy Doucette had 137 contacts, among them home repair or tech support for 10 and supportive counseling for 7 people. Programming included “to-go meals” (served 63 and 61 individuals on two occasions), foot clinics, Bingo every Thursday and Drumming every Monday. Transportation provided 178 rides for the month.

Juli talked about maintaining the importance of COAs through transition and discussion followed about the role of COAs. Penny Spearance noted that she attended COA training offered by the Exec. Office of Elder Affairs (EOEA) a few years ago, which raised the question of whether the EOEA will offer anything like that now. There is a Massachusetts COA Conference in Falmouth this December.

Nancy Brewer asked for funding we need from the Senior Center Foundation (SCF) and it was mentioned that we need a new dishwasher and \$1,000 stove part. Also we receive a \$10,000 stipend from the SCF annually plus additional money as needed, although someone mentioned we should be able to make purchases without “asking permission”; Wayne said it would be nice to minimize the bureaucracy. Juli said the SCF is paying for our new computer program “My Senior Center” (which replaces the existing sign-in program), which costs almost \$8,000 and the Center will need another monitor for the back door at a cost of about \$3,000.

The Board agreed that we would like to have a Strategic Planning meeting with the SCF in October.

Juli reported questions/problems about the FRTA contract. We serve 9 towns.

Each COA needs to write and send a letter of support for the creation of the District to the State House. Sylvia Smith will email templates and information about where to send the letters.

Nancy Brewer asked us each to write down two things we want for the Center. When she collected and read them it turned out most of us wrote “more space.”

Ashfield COA reported they met in August and will meet in September but not in October (because of Fall Festival). There were no other COA meetings. There was no New Business or Old Business.

The meeting adjourned at 4:04 p.m. Next meeting: Sept. 8 at 3:00 p.m. at the Center.

Respectfully submitted,
Ellen Eller