Senior Center Board Minutes – Oct. 14, 2021

*Present: Doug Field, Wayne Wickland, Anne Yuryan (Ashfield); Ellen Eller, Tony Jewell (Buckland); Suzanne E. Bishop, Nancy E. Brewer, Sylvia M. Smith, Penny Spearance (Shelburne); Amanda Joao, Director.*

Chair Doug Field called the meeting to order at 3:00. Penny Spearance moved to accept the September minutes; Wayne Wickland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Nancy Brewer requested a correction to the August minutes. After discussion, Wayne moved to amend the August minutes; Penny seconded. The motion passed with one abstention.

Treasurer Sue Bishop reported normal expenses. The Caregivers Grant, $5194, was renewed Oct. 1; the Home Repair Grant was $2089; and we received over $500 in donations. Director Amanda Joao will create a separate spreadsheet for donations. The SCF will pay for the Thanksgiving Meal; Greenfield Savings Bank will pay for December’s Holiday Meal.

Director Joao reported that the Center is under quarterly spending. Transportation expenses will be going up. Programs that were held at the Buckland Rec will move to the Center if the health agent allows more people to gather indoors. Amanda has been writing grants and the staff is planning ahead. Due to high volume, Outreach remains limited to Consortium towns. Transportation is using all 4 vans and taking 3-6 passengers at a time on shopping trips.

Doug Field said Ashfield’s COA hopes to have a Christmas Luncheon in Town Hall. The Board of Health is checking with FRCOG to find out if they can bring together 30 people plus Senior Center and Town Hall staff indoors. There were no other COA reports.

Expansion Committee Chair Sylvia Smith reported that Dan Pallotta believes we are 2/3 done convincing officials to support the formation of a Senior Services District and we should be able to get the rest. The towns have had the draft from last year; the Working Group needs to hear what select boards want to discuss, and where and when they will meet.

In her Senior Center Foundation (SCF) report, Nancy Brewer reported $249,426.74 in assets. She said the board now has a credit card; voted to support the Center’s Thanksgiving meal; and formed a task force for better communication between the SCF and our Board of Directors, including our long- and short-term goals. Doug asked board members to think about what we’d like to see happen at the Center in the next 12 months.

New Business: This year’s Flu Clinic at Mohawk is Saturday, Oct. 26; register online. Sylvia said we should have a serious discussion about helping seniors in non-member towns.

The meeting adjourned at 4:10. Next Meeting (a week earlier than usual): Thursday, Nov. 4, at 3:00 at theSenior Center.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Eller