Senior Center Board Minutes – November 4, 2021

*Present: Doug Field, Janice Wright (Ashfield); Ellen Eller, Anthony Jewell, Joanne Soroka (Buckland); Suzanne E. Bishop, Nance E. Brewer, Sylvia Smith (Shelburne); Amanda Joao, Director; Michael McCusker, Margaret Payne, Patricia Perlman (Sr.Ctr. Foundation)*

Chair Doug Field called the meeting to order at 3:00. Sylvia Smith moved to accept the October minutes with correction; Sue Bishop seconded the motion, which passed with one abstention. Nancy Brewer clarified the correction to the August minutes, as previously approved.

In her Treasurer’s report Sue Bishop said expenses were routine. There was a $600 bill for the meetings at the Buckland Recreation Area from August through October, and that bill was covered by the Senior Center Foundation (SCF).

Director Amanda Joao’s report reflected both restricted and unrestricted funds. She said the towns all want budgets early. She was asked to meet with the Buckland Finance Committee in two weeks. All programs are now indoors, although the Center is still holding off on group meals. Transportation has been very busy.

SCF President Margaret Payne said that after their board’s October retreat led by the Philanthropy Resource Group, they decided not to change their name or expand in any way. Their commitment is to support and fund the mission of the Senior Center. They want to have a closer relationship with the Center’s Board of Directors, and Trish Perlman will be attending board meetings just as Nancy Brewer attends SCF meetings. Margaret said the SCF’s purpose is to work collaboratively through fundraising with the Center staff and COAs. If a Senior Services District is established the SCF will be able to have a broader purpose and attract major donors.

In the discussion that followed, Mike McCusker noted that we need to tell people that the District will actually save taxpayers money, and Joanne Soroka added that we have to get the message out. It was agreed that the ownership issue and the District are key.

Expansion Committee Chair Sylvia Smith said that consultant Dan Pallotta has been trying to arrange meetings with the three select boards but recent meetings had to be called off because the Buckland liaison did not attend. Once the select boards approve a District it will still have to go to the legislature and it will be subject to legal review. Sylvia said “We intend to bring something” to Annual Town Meetings this spring.

Reporting for Ashfield’s COA Doug Field said they wanted to have a Christmas party but the Board of Health said no due to ongoing COVID concerns and flu season.

In her SCF report Nancy Brewer said as of Nov. 1 we had $248,583.05 in total assets. The SCF board’s focus was on improving communication with the Center’s board, and determining what the Center needs.

There was no Old Business. New Business: Discussion of flu clinic in Ashfield

The meeting adjourned at 4:00. Next Meeting: Thursday, December 9, at 3:00.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Eller