Senior Center Board Minutes – July 8, 2021

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

Chair Doug Field called the meeting to order at 3:00. Suzanne Bishop moved to accept the June 10 minutes as written. Wayne Wickland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Treasurer Sue Bishop reported that as FY21 comes to an end we still have close to $50,000 not expended due to decreased benefits and decreased transportation. That money cannot be carried over and portions will be credited back to the Towns.

In her Director’s report, Amanda Joao said the Center had its first full day of activities including bingo and drumming. Drive-by meals will continue.

Expansion Committee Chair Sylvia Smith said all the towns have received information but now “we are in a holding pattern.” Nothing is scheduled for the summer, but the working committee will meet with Dan Pallotta to discuss next steps. The plan is to hold an informational meeting for the three select boards in the fall and to set up community forums because the priority is to educate town officials and the public.

Doug Field reported that Ashfield “is in turmoil” because the town has no administrator, although they hired a new fire chief. The COA will hold a picnic at the town park on August 11, featuring entertainment by Dave Herrera. The Ashfield Historical Society may allow meetings at their building, which is accessible. Also Doug said that the Lake House owner will not be cooking regular meals, only serving hamburgers and hotdogs at the bar.

In her report on the Senior Center Foundation (SCF) board meeting, Nancy Brewer said the account has $251,817.85--$38,000 more in the bank than last year. The quilt raffle raised $465; Emily Mayenza won. The board also discussed a name change that would be “more inclusive,” serving more than the three towns. Discussion followed as members of our board objected to that idea, pointing out that the Foundation was formed specifically to support the Senior Center’s programs, services and mission. If other towns join the Center, then the SCF would support them as part of our consortium.

New Business: Doug reported that Ashfield’s select board established a “senior services committee,” conducted a survey about use of the Senior Center and received 165 responses, 108 of which were positive. It was noted that the survey referred to the “Shelburne Senior Center,” which bothered many residents.

The meeting adjourned at 3:55. Next Meeting: Thursday, August 8, at 3:00 at theBuckland Recreation Area.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Eller