Senior Center Board Minutes – September 9, 2021

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

Chair Doug Field called the meeting to order at 3:01.

Wayne Wickland moved to accept the minutes of the August meeting as amended. Tony Jewell seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

Treasurer Suzanne Bishop reported the usual monthly bills. She said a number of trainings were provided for in the budget, including FRTA driver and ServeSafe certification.

Director Amanda Joao reported that she and Gloria Fisher are splitting Outreach responsibilities temporarily. (Outreach will be limited to Consortium towns.) She said that van drivers are working longer hours. In addition, she will be helping at the Sept. 17 Memory Café; she said $480 left from the caregivers’ group and t’ai chi class will go toward the Café.

Expansion Committee Chair Sylvia Smith said that Dan Pallotta reached out to Ashfield’s Select Board to explain the financial set-up of the proposed Senior Services District and how it is separate from expansion. The board chair referred to the survey an town committee sent to residents, and he told Dan that as a result of mostly positive responses, Ashfield is ready to re-engage in the District discussion. Anne Yuryan said people on the committee were surprised by the number of services the Senior Center provides, and couldn’t imagine how Ashfield could provide as much on its own.

Sylvia said the next step is getting the three select boards together and having them come to a consensus for the project. We also need to have public forums that explain it.

Doug Field said that at the Ashfield COA’s recent meeting it was suggested that they meet in the Community Hall. But they can’t because it isn’t accessible. There were no other COA reports.

In her Senior Center Foundation (SCF) report Nancy Brewer said the board discussed guidelines for a new administrative coordinator and planning for the Fall Appeal. A retreat is scheduled for Oct. 15. The SCF’s total assets: $249,526.87.

Wayne Wickland moved to invite Margaret Payne to our November board meeting to discuss “next steps for the Foundation.” Penny Spearance seconded the motion. In the following discussion several board members emphasized that we want to reaffirm that the SCF was established specifically to support member towns. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business: Penny said that at a recent Shelburne Falls Area Women’s Club meeting, the Exec. Director of “Just Roots” spoke about growing food insecurity. She suggested that perhaps Amanda or Leanne Dowd might be able to contact them to see if they can help at Highland Village. There was no Old Business.

The meeting adjourned at 3:58. Next Meeting: Thursday, October 14, at 3:00 at theBuckland Recreation Area pavilion (weather permitting; at the Center if it’s too cold).

**NOTE: The November meeting will be held a week early, Nov. 4, at the Center.**

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Eller