

The Senior Center

Ashfield • Buckland • Shelburne

The West County Council on Aging Collaborative Meeting August 15, 2025, Meeting Minutes 3-4 pm

Present:

Ashfield COA- Janice Wright, David Collins

Buckland COA- Ellen Eller, Lisa Khanna

Shelburne COA- Penny Spearance, Sue Bishop, Nancy Brewer

Senior Center- Juli Moreno

Public- Gayle Davidson

Reviewed Agenda going forward with the meetings. Agreed to be public, follow Open Meeting Law. Juli will provide agenda and complete minutes for the meetings. COAs can meet at 2pm before scheduled meetings for joint event meeting before the main meeting.

The agenda was instituted at the meeting and proceeds as follows:

Welcome- Introduce new members and/or public

Collaboration Expansion Efforts- Discussion on eventual goal to invite the other non-member district towns to the meeting, to provide resources and collaborative planning. Juli visited the Colrain COA and did present the Collaborative meeting information. Most members of Colrain are open to the possibility, they will discuss and see if this is something they want to be part of in the future. The next COA to visit and invite is Charlemont.

Senior Center Programming Report

- ✓ Juli provided information on September programming, the usually scheduled and new initiatives. The Senior Center relies on the COAs for feedback from seniors in their towns on what is needed, what could be added to events and programming. Education and fun seem to be at the top of the lists.
- ✓ Review of Board of Managers District status, and evolution. Janice asked about the Board of Managers plan for the expansion of other towns in West County, how the PR will be managed. David Collins, member of the BoM, will bring this up at the next BoM meeting next week.
- ✓ Juli reviewed the funds status, that all three town assessments have been received, and now will be working with the town of Shelburne at transferring gift funds and funds from FY25, to the district.
- ✓ COA Gift Funds can be utilized for joint COA events, and special annual events for each COA. The SC will purchase paper goods and supplies for each COA to cut down on limited town COA funds.

Collaborative Events- Conversation Café

Penny spoke of the meeting with the towns, EMDs, at the Shelburne police station to plan for the Sept 25 event at Mary Lyon Church in Buckland. There is a \$50 fee for the space, but the church would waive. COAs decided to pay the fee, split between the three, and the SC could also contribute. There will be a follow-up minutes Aug25meeting with all COAs and EMDs on 8/21 at 5:30pm at same place.

Name That Tune could be an event, David Herrera agreed to sing/hum if the lady from the Palmer area was unable to attend. This will continue to be a plan.

Reminder that next week on the 21st is the Open Swim for seniors. Buckland has funds remaining of the Mass In Motion grant and will utilize this for a lifeguard for an open swim for only seniors.

Ashfield COA

Monthly lunches continue, mainly Brown Bag. Last month, Dave the Weather Nut spoke, people really enjoyed the time. In September there will be a joint meeting with the Town of Ashfield. Alexis (Town Clerk) received a grant for Assisted Listening Technologies and will give a demo of this product at Town Hall. There will also be pizza!

In October they have a curator from the Historical Society to do a picture presentation. In November, the last one until April, will host a hot turkey sandwich event at the Lake House.

Buckland COA

Open Swim next Thursday. Open to all seniors, not just Buckland. On Sept 4, the COA is sponsoring a Summer Send Off at the Pavilion at Buckland Rec. There will be food and fun! Seniors are attending the COA meetings and providing feedback. COA supporting seniors getting on the Code Red communication system.

Shelburne COA

Planning a COA meet and greet for November. Also hosting a presentation by Caroline and John Wheeler that did a presentation at the Grange. Penny has worked with Joe Judd on Blackboard, having the ability to call seniors for events and happenings as a robo call. The selectboard approved.

Other

Discussion introduced about seniors from other towns attending events sponsored by another town, if specific to town. Most people feel this is fine, not an issue. We will discuss it more at next meeting.

Juli will work on a generic invoice and contract for entertainers and expenses for COA Collaborative events and activities.

Adjourned at 4:10 pm

Next Meeting: Thursday September 11, 2025 at The Senior Center