

Northfield Council on Aging Minutes

January 17, 2023

Meeting called to order at: 1:01PM

Attendance: Deb Lanou, Jim Whitcomb, Betty Whitcomb, Judie Tate, Meg Livingstone, Colleen Letourneau, Debby Wiesen Kelly, Pete Vearling, Christine Harris

Minutes: Board reviewed the minutes. Betty made a motion to accept the minutes and Meg seconded the motion. All in favor. Minutes approved

Treasurer report: Betty and Colleen met with Erin and reviewed Erin's report. "Free pass" from division of local services certifies accounts for the Town. Until it is certified, we can't rollover amounts. Some money put in exercise account went into gifts. Most issues are the rollover accounts. Betty looked at the Town balance, and CoA budget matches. Meg made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report and Debby seconded the motion. All in favor. The Treasurer's report was approved.

Finance committee meeting is on February 6th at 6pm to review the CoA budget. It needs to be approved by the Select board and submitted at the Town Meeting for final approval. Colleen mentioned some changes to several line items in the budget:

- Meeting/Seminar Budget line item was increased by 3 times the amount to account for increases in seminar and costs and to be able to include a CoA Board member and for Colleen's CEUs for her professional development
- Postage increases (\$750 per box)
- Exercise Fund Grant – only pays for 3 months of classes plus donations. Title III Church Street Fund is dwindling down and may go away (used to pay Libby)
- Take and Go Lunch program charges a nominal amount
- Fred Wells Grant – used to reupholster furniture and for food containers (balance of \$162.85)
- Formula Grant – used for operating costs for other CoA needs
- Life Path Cares Technology grant – used to pay for iPads used at tech days
- Petty cash – used to pay for coffee

Chair report: Deb welcomed new Board member Peter Vearling. He will add a dimension to what we need at CoA. Deb will act as mentor for Pete and we will work on a "buddy system".

New board member introduction: Christine Harris grew up in Northfield. She attended Greenfield Community College and went on to UMASS. She moved away, but returned home in 1980. Her husband and sister passed away. Chris retired last fall after 18 years at the Greenfield Recorder as a writer and editor. She ran a writing business with her husband. Now, Chris wants to do what she can to for seniors. Also, she loves the Take and Go lunches. Deb nominated Chris to the Council on Aging. Betty seconded the motion. Colleen explained there is a process to complete paperwork, application, CORI check and the completed paperwork goes to the Select board. A letter is issued from the Town and Dan Campbell swears you in. There are 2 online tests to complete.

Outreach and marketing: Title: Outreach and Marketing- How to Expand Reach to Citizens – Northfield has a social media Facebook page, but cautioned against posting on Facebook. Last summer, Karen Boudreau advertised on nextdoor and Shelby posted Senior Center events. New activities are bringing people from other communities. Betty suggested a community calendar with all of our events. May need people to organize social media posts.

- Advertise new grill and shed because we want to reach as many seniors as possible
- We need to create an action plan to reach more seniors – maybe use nextdoor to post monthly calendar
- Get endorsements- brief and keep updating
- Share the newsletter with a greater number in the Northfield community – put calendars at MIMS and IGA
- Use Town signage – more exposure for drive by citizens
- Deb thinks if we draw more people, we can get more space

Deb had a cleaned-up version of the Conflict of Interest issue, but not a final copy. Jim mentioned chain of command information should be in this version. Deb listed other issues included in this version. Look at Policy and Procedures next time.

Other: Upcoming Alzheimer Virtual seminar – Latest treatment for Alzheimer, New insert in Beyond 50 in the paper

Director's report:

Senior Center update:

Colleen wanted some ideas about the 350th Parade. She is trying to get golf carts and we suggested renting carts from Crumpin- Fox. We need 6 golf carts that can accommodate 4 seats each. On the day of the parade we will wear Happy Feet and Happy Little Feet T-shirts. David suggested getting helium balloons with your age on it.

- Grant proposal for shed and grill – Total cost: \$5703, \$3K from Formula grant or fund raising and \$2703 from CPC (we revised the CPC proposal for current needs)
- FCTS (Franklin County Technical School) kids looked at space for upcoming event
- Art classes are full
- In February – Mass Cultural Grant will sponsor a play “Accidental Wedding” on Valentine’s Day
- Audiologist doing coffee social and holding a clinic – there are different loops and we will work with the Audiologist and installer
- HEAR HERE Northfield was not funded by ADA, but will be funded with ARPA funds
- Bio for next Newsletter

Legislative update: none

Neighbors at Home: Knock and Drop chocolate event planned. Neighbors plan to go bowling on Thursday, Feb 9th. Annual meeting in June 10th There will be a newsletter from Neighbors

Friends of Northfield CoA: No report. David is treasurer and photographer

CPC: Meeting with Laura Dubin next week. Meeting date TBD. Need to be approved by the Select Board.

Motion to adjourn by Jim. The motion was seconded by Judy. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 2:20pm.

Approved date: 2/21/2023

Approved by: Deby Whisen Kelly