

## Northfield Council on Aging Minutes

Tuesday, July 18, 2023

Meeting called to order at 1:06 p.m.

**Attendance:** Colleen Letourneau, director; Betty Whitcomb, treasurer; Jim Whitcomb, co-chair; Meg Livingstone; Chris Harris (secretary); Deb Lenou, chair; Pete Vearling

**Absent:** Debby Wiesen Kelly

**Minutes:** Based on a review of meeting minutes for June 20, 2023, Betty made a motion to accept the minutes, seconded by Jim, and approved by all present.

**Treasurer's Report:** Betty noted three little glitches, itemized on her spreadsheet, which she could not account for because she did not receive a full printout, but only the totals. Betty will contact Erin and hopefully by next month will have any discrepancies resolved. The report was moved and seconded for approval; all approved.

### **Chair's Report (Deb Lenou):**

*Policies and Procedures:* Deb has made final adjustments to the Policies and Procedures document. She has sent it to board members as an email attachment.

*Outreach:* Deb thanked Pete for bringing the need for a regular Memory Cafe to our attention. Deb reports that Shelburne Falls and Greenfield both have memory cafes and Colleen said that Bernardston has a support group for caregivers, who may also bring their recipient. (Bernardston's is Monday, July 31, at 3 p.m.). Colleen and Deb Lanou will go to Shelburne Falls on Friday (July 21) to observe and learn more about their memory cafe.

We could utilize the pavilion as an outdoor space. For a memory cafe, the attendees would each come with their caregiver, who would see to specific needs of the attendee.

Colleen said that Meg Ryan (nurse), who is a member of the Age and Dementia Friendly initiative by LifePath that we are a part of, would come in and do some dementia training for us and any volunteers and other interested persons.

Deb asked for and received a motion, which was seconded, and a vote for pursuing this goal of a memory cafe for Northfield Senior Center. All members voted in favor of this goal.

Colleen reported that she reached out to Kathy Dunn of the Greenfield Senior Center to ask if a couple of our members could visit for research purposes. As of this meeting, she had not heard back yet.

Chris Harris and maybe Betty Whitcomb may visit Greenfield senior center on Aug. 11.

Deb and Colleen may go to Bernardston support group meeting.

*Other: Agenda items:* Deb invited members' input on agenda items for upcoming meetings.

### **Director's Report:**

*Update on new Administrative Program Assistant:* Colleen reported that Robin Jenkins is doing great and is very friendly and personable to Senior Center visitors.



*Progress on "Hear, Here Northfield":* All the quotes for the vinyl plank, 12-ml flooring are in. Booska came in at \$9,083. Kidder came in at close to \$9,000 and Home Depot is \$7,600. Colleen reported that Home Depot had the price that best suited our needs and she has accepted their quote. Shanahan Sound is coming out to do the looping in all three rooms in town (Senior Center, Library and Town Hall). The back parking lot is going to be all dug up during the first two weeks of August, so we're talking about after that. Colleen will need helpers from the board to move everything out of the Senior Center so that the work can be done.

*Senior Center Programs:* We're doing that riverboat ride with Bernardston next month. There are still openings.

*Happy Feet Hike:* Another Happy Feet hike is coming up, at the Northfield Mountain Recreation and Environmental Center. If there is high heat, this may start earlier than 10 a.m.

*350th Anniversary Parade update:* We are getting permission to order up the draft horses and the big wagon (20 seats). Shelby at the golf course will inform us as we get nearer to that date as to the availability of golf carts. Antique cars may also be part of our contingent for seniors to ride in who cannot climb up into the wagon.

*New benches for Pavilion:* Polywood benches are already here and have been assembled by the town's new maintenance man, Austin.

*Piano, to keep or not to keep:* Lynne Walker and Chris Harris tried out the piano and found that it is in good working condition. It needs tuning. Chris will call piano tuner Dennis Ainsworth of Colrain for his opinion and an estimate about tuning the piano.

*Legislative update:* Betty noted that, if a scam artist targets a senior, the fine will be increased to \$2,500.

*Coffee Socials:* Because of the parking lot repaving in the first two weeks of August, we're not having the Greenfield Savings Bank coffee social in August. We're going to have it instead on Aug. 22nd at 11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. It's going to be a recap of previous topics, like wills, power of attorney, scams, etc., and there will be a fun test of our knowledge. They will serve us lunch. RSVPs will be needed a week before.

*Neighbors at Home:* Betty reported that their float for the 350th Parade will encompass five entities: Neighbors at Home, the Northfield Regional Food Pantry, the Northfield Free Store, the Northfield Clothing Closet, and the Northfield Tool Lending Library. Their board talked about the need for more volunteers — especially younger volunteers — for helping respond to members' requests for small home services, and how to go about getting those volunteers. Membership in Neighbors at Home has increased to about 60 members.

*Friends of Northfield COA:* Have not held a meeting this past month.

*CPC (Community Preservation Committee):* Meg reports that they have not met.

There being no further discussion, a motion to adjourn was made and seconded, and approved at 2:05 p.m.

Approved date: 8-22-2023

Approved by: Christine M. Harris

Christine Harris, secretary