

CARLENE HAMLIN , Chair
LAURIE CASOLARI, Vice-Chair

MINUTES OF THE SOUTH HADLEY COUNCIL ON AGING MEETING

Monday April 9, 2018

The meeting was called to order by vice Chairperson Laurie Casolari at 4:04 pm

Present: Laurie Casolari, William Schenker, Janet Veitch, new member Carol Constant

Excused: Eileen Burke, Sarah Gmeiner, Carleen Hamlin and Grace Kelly

Director Leslie Hennessey present

Visitors: Bruce Forcier

MEETING MINUTES: Minutes of February 12, 2018 amended to indicate the William Schenker made motion to accept those minutes / seconded by Janet Veitch and unanimously approved by the board. A motion was then made to accept those minutes as amended by William Schenker, seconded by Janet Veitch and unanimously approved by the board.

OLD BUSINESS:

- A. Town Reminder Tidbits: Sheila was working on this prior to her resignation. Director Hennessey informed the Board that Paris Brantley was hired as media and activities coordinator (new position) and that she will take on Town Reminder Tidbits.
- B. Board Vacancies: Director Hennessey asked for ideas to attract new board members (3 positions). Carol Constant suggested that current members speak with people they know that may be interested in serving on board / may offer different skills/ perspectives. Bruce Forcier asked Director Hennessey for vacancy sheet for SH community TV, for selectboard and for Town Reminder
- C. Capital (Philanthropic) Committee for new Senior Center Project: Carol Constant updated Board re: this committee. Many individuals who worked on Library committee have joined this committee including: Carol Constant, Kim Prough, Mike Siddall, Priscilla Mandrachia, Joan Rosner among others.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Fact / Information sheet for new senior center- Director Hennessey provided info. sheet to Board members. After reviewing, Board members made suggestions re: working / format of sheet. Carol C. suggested emailing or mailing info sheet (condensed version) to town meeting members/ selectboard members. Bruce Forcier suggested reworking of section referring to funding request by Senator Rosenberg.

Bill Schenker recommended simplified/ improved working of section – Why Dayton Street? Director Hennessey will edit based on suggestions / recommendations. Board member asked whether churches in town have been spoken with re: plan to utilize spaces for COA activities/ functions during construction. Director Hennessey indicated that initial conversations with several area churches / and willingness to assist with this need.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

A. MySeniorCenter statistics review: no statistics will be available until May

B. Evening Programming at Senior Center: Overall has been successful but 2 recent events cancelled/ being cancelled due to low sign up number. Some upcoming evening programs include Aging Family Series (3 Mondays in May and June 4) sponsored by Loomis. Reminder article is being run promoting this series. In June there will be a Grandparents as Caregivers speaker.

C. Summertime programming: evenings will include Movie and fitness center open house.

D. Dayton Street Dinners: Fundraising group/ committee formed for this project. They spoke with caterer re: monthly fundraising dinner concept and found that the fundraising potential did not justify the cost/ effort needed to hold on monthly basis. Committee came up with new idea: to hold a single big fundraising event. Tentatively a Saturday in late September at Buttery Brook Park with food- barbeque, music / bands on stage(? Moose and the High Tops/ Fred Marion / Berkshire Hills). Plan to sell tickets (? \$50 per adult/ person) with purpose of fundraising for new Senior Center.

E. Discussions and Updates:

1. Volunteer Appreciation lunch is on April 13, 2018

2. Fitness Center Dedication: Thursday April 12 at 10 am. Director Hennessey invited the Board and the Friends of the COA to attend. There will be no charge to use the Center in May. After that considering how to charge for use: ? gym fees in the area, ? whether to charge SH residents at all, ? fee per visit versus a monthly fee. So far good amount of interest in Fitness Center – orientation class this week is full!

A motion to adjourn was made at 5:14 pm by Janet Veitch, seconded by Mary Billion and unanimously approved by the Board.

The next meeting is scheduled for May 8 at 4 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Laurie Casolari, vice chairperson