

COUNCIL ON AGING  
Board of Directors Meeting

Minutes  
September 17, 2018

Present: Mary Billion, Mary Boulais, Laurie Casolari, Drewey Darnell, Carol Constant, Grace Kelly, Linda Young. Visitor: Bruce Forcier

Absent: Eileen Burke, Sarah Gmeiner, Janet Veitch

Laurie opened the meeting at 4:10 p.m. with a roll call and introductions of new members. Laurie asked if any of the new members wanted to say anything but the three declined.

The minutes of the last meeting were unanimously approved.

Laurie asked about reorganization and it was agreed that we would wait until we had a full Board in place. Bill Schenker's resignation was accepted by the Selectboard and hopefully a new appointment will be made at the next Selectboard meeting.

Director's Report:

Leslie Hennessey, Director, spoke first about the Formula Grant which comes from the State office of Elderly Affairs. This is actually federal money based on the census of 2010 which showed we had 4,089 senior citizens in South Hadley, The Governor decides how much of that will come to each community. In 2017 we received \$10 per senior, 2018 it was \$9.70 and for 2019 we are hoping for \$12 but this is just a projection. Leslie provides information on how many seniors enter the building, whether they are Male or Female, etc. This is a good roadmap for the Center. She is looking at programs which bring in younger people, a program perhaps just for males. Approximately 14,000 volunteer hours were recorded with about 1,310 elders coming in to the Center, 71% are women and 29% are male. Our Outreach Program has been very well received by the Office of Elder Affairs. This year's conference is to focus on Senior Centers and how to get people to come. We talked about ways to get the word out to our younger constituents and how to get their parents involved. The newsletter goes out to 3100 residents and the COA also uses e-mail and Facebook. Mary Boulais asked more about the outreach program which Leslie explained.

Evening Programs. Movies are not working out well but the program on Elder Law drew 102 people to the diningroom. The speaker and Leslie are working out programs for the spring on guardianship and health care proxies as the speaker has been asked back. The program was also taped and will be shown on Channel 15 when it is available. Other popular programs have

been the Art Festival and card making and the word is growing. There will be no program in January and only two in the rest of the winter months but ramping up for the spring.

Senior Center Building Committee has met and is waiting on a survey on the land surrounding the Senior Center before proceeding.

Philanthropic Committee has a new member who is an excellent addition to this committee. She is writing a report on why people should give to the Senior Center. A letter is also being developed and will go out to key people and businesses. They are also talking about the parameters of how, why and what gifts can or cannot be given.

Fundraising Committee is almost all set for this Saturday, 9/22 offering Beer, Bands and Barbeque. Approximately 150 tickets have been sold at \$50 apiece.

Friends of the South Hadley Elderly, Inc. is the fundraising arm and they meet quarterly.

Board of Directors Opportunities:

- Looking for office help
- Packer for the Meals on Wheels
- Handling the phone in the office for the evening programs

Other Business:

Carol mentioned that the Philanthropic Committee needs someone who can do data entry. Linda might know of someone.

Linda would like the newer members to see the latest policies of the COA to help in understanding how the Council works. Leslie will get them for us. Linda also asked about personnel and if Leslie is looking to increase part-time staff or looking for a new staff person. Leslie responded that she is considering talking to Mike about the need for an increase in the part-time staff and will let us know when she has made a decision so the Board can support her on this.

NEXT MEETINGS: October 15th, Nov. 19th and Dec. 10th. Leslie sent us today a listing of the dates/time of our next meeting through June, 2019.

Meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Young