

Drewey Darnell, Chairperson
Liane Pueschel, Secretary

LESLIE HENNESSEY, Director

SOUTH HADLEY COUNCIL ON AGING

Virtual Board of Directors Meeting—January 11, 2021
Minutes

Call to order: The meeting was called to order at 4:30pm by Chair Drewey Darnell

Roll Call: Drewey Darnell, Mary Boulais, Carol Constant, Liane Pueschel, Robert Pueschel, Linda Young, Rita Starzyk

Present: Leslie Hennessey, Director

Absent: Laurie Casolari

Guest: Kim Prough

Open Forum: No issues for discussion

Approval of December Minutes: Motion by Linda Young to approve December minutes with an amendment to correct a misspelled name. Seconded by Robert Pueschel. All were in favor.

New Business:

a. Census Numbers:

Numbers are not yet available from the Office of Elder Affairs

b. Budget for new Senior Center:

Funds have been allotted, but It is difficult to assess the funds that will be needed going forward. Mike Sullivan is working with Leslie and is open to further discussion if more funds are needed.

Funding for a full-time Senior Center Coordinator has been approved and has been posted internally at Town Hall.

In discussion with Town Administrator regarding cleaning crew vs. custodian for maintenance of the building.

The Senior Center Project site has been closed for 7 days due to illness of some of the workers. The projected opening of the Center has been moved from mid-April to possibly mid-May. Senior Center staff will be able to remain at St. Theresa's until they are allowed in the new building.

Looking at holding outside activities and also activities in the gymnasium in late March/April, but ultimately this will be determined by the Board of Health.

Laurie Casolari has resigned from the Board of Directors, citing a scheduling conflict. A motion was made by Drewey Darnell to send a letter of gratitude to Laurie for her work on the Board. The motion was seconded by Robert Pueschel. Motion passed.

An ad has been placed in the Newsletter alerting folks to the fact that we need Board members.

Old Business:

- a. New Senior Center Project:
Furniture has been ordered.

A sub-group has been formed to look into ways of making the Center safer due to COVID concerns.....plexiglass partitions, changes to bathrooms to make them hands-free, increased ventilation to increase the flow of air, etc.

- b. Friends of South Hadley Seniors Update (Kim Prough)

- December Soup and Popover—310 participants
- Bingo every Friday. Last week there were 18 participants which will most likely increase.
- Thursday 1/14, Soup and ½ sandwich courtesy of Yarde Tavern.....180 participants
- St. Patrick's Day Luncheon 3/16 courtesy of the Loomis Community.
- Membership Drive—in the 1st month, 250 members have joined, 65% of which are new members. \$10,000 dollars have been raised so far. In February, a Membership Appeal will be sent to out-of-town members.

- c. Master Plan Review:

The COA sub-committee met last week. 3 topics were chosen as main goals: Affordable Senior Housing, a Wellness Nurse, and a FT Licensed Social Worker. Discussion followed.

Leslie informed the Board that she has sent a Letter of Support from the COA for the Plaza Project.

Director's Report:

A. Operations Senior Center

1. Coffee Hour is being dropped from programming....no attendance
A Veteran's Coordinator, Mike Slater, has been added. He will lead a discussion group online, and will present various topics. This will begin in February.

II. Budget previously discussed

III. AARP will be on site on Wednesdays, 2/17-4/14, for Tax Preparation (EZ Form) from 8:30-2:30.
Information in January Newsletter.

IV. Mass DOT Transportation Grant of \$4000 was received and must be spent by 6/30. This would be matched by the COA for another van driver. However, Leslie is in discussion with DOT as to how the funds could be spent differently since the vans are not in service due to Covid.

V. Annual Report due for July 2019 to June 2020.

B. Items not reasonably anticipated: 30 ipads have been acquired from the town through the Cares Act and

will be distributed to low income seniors. Certain criteria will have to be reached in order to qualify. Information will be provided in the Newsletter. Training will be provided. Basic Apps will be set up by the town IT person. A Comcast voucher (Comcast Essentials) will pay for 2 months of WIFI service and then the town will pay for 12 months. The Directors of the retirement communities will be helping to find qualified individuals.

No meeting in February

Next Meeting: March, 8, 2021

Motion to adjourn by Mary Boulais and seconded by Robert Pueschel

Meeting adjourned@ 5:34pm

Respectfully submitted,
Liane Pueschel
Secretary