

SOUTH HADLEY COUNCIL ON AGING  
Board of Directors Meeting—May 8, 2023  
Minutes

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 4:30 pm by Chairperson Robert Pueschel

Roll Call: Carol Constant, Rachel Tierney, Marilyn Ishler, Jim Bosman, Dick Matteson, Sheila Pennell, Robert Pueschel, Liane Pueschel

Absent: Susan LaBonte

Guests: Kim Prough, Janet Stawasz

Present: Leslie Hennessey, Director

Open Forum: No items for discussion

Approval of April 2023 Minutes: Under 'Friends of the South Hadley Seniors Updates' ....remove 1<sup>st</sup> bullet point and replace with: Provided complimentary soup and raffle basket for the Age/Dementia Friendly Forum on April 4<sup>th</sup>. Motion by Carol Constant to receive the Minutes as corrected. Seconded by Marilyn Ishler. All were in favor.

New Business:

- a. Bylaw review of Board Member limits by the Nominating Committee
  - Presently a member can only serve 2 consecutive 3-year terms. Can this be changed?
  - The Director will check with the Town Clerk
  - The Board would like to remove the sentence in Article IV of the South Hadley Council on Aging Policy Handbook that states that a member must hold office in their first 3-year term or resign from the Board. Discussion followed. Motion made by Carol Constant to remove the sentence. Seconded by Marilyn Ishler. All were in favor. Must be approved by the Selectboard before we can proceed with change.
  - Determined that the entire Policy Handbook needs to be updated. Marilyn Ishler, Rachel Tierney, and Jim Bosman volunteered. Marilyn Ishler will be the Chairperson. The goal is to have the revisions ready for report to the Board by the August meeting.
- b. Alzheimer's Walkathon—October 15<sup>th</sup> at Holyoke Community College
  - T-shirts will only be given out to the Captains of the teams and to participants who raise \$150 or more
  - Discussion regarding The Friends purchasing T-shirts or subsidizing part of the cost for the COA; or have participants pay for the entire cost of the shirts
  - ? logos on shirts.
  - Conversation regarding options will continue.

Old Business:

- a. MCOA Board of Directors training on May 31<sup>st</sup>—1:30pm-3:30pm
  - Reminder/Directions to the Ludlow COA will be sent out to Board members
  - Consideration being given regarding similar training for 'Friends' groups
- b. Age/Dementia Friendly Updates
  - Successful Age/Dementia training at 2<sup>nd</sup> Baptist Church with 22 in attendance

- Committee working with Dan Pease of Channel 15 to set up an interview format a few hours a month for individuals to share their personal stories.
- c. The Friends of the South Hadley Seniors Updates—Kim Prough
  - 67 attended the free movie night on 4/24
  - 200 attended the Ray of Elvis on 5/5
  - Free stamps and note cards were given to 100 seniors on 5/12 & 5/16
  - Plant sale at Senior Center on 5/12 from 9-4
  - Senior Picnic at Buttery Brook on 6/20. Smithsonian Caterers and DJ
  - Outreach at Hubert Place on 6/27. Refreshments and entertainment

### Director's Report

#### A. Operations: Senior Center

##### I. Statistics

- 812 people participated in April events, activities, and programs
- 4270 events were attended in April (474 members came through the Center multiple times)
- 25% come from out of town
- Exercise classes still very busy

##### II. Monthly Board Opportunities

- Think about what you are enthusiastic about doing at the COA
- What is your passion?
- Consider volunteering at the many events offered

#### B. Fee Reduction for COA classes

- Reducing cost of exercise classes to \$1.00
- Reducing cost of art classes from \$4.00 to \$3.00
- Able to do so with funds from the Formula Grant

#### C. Emergency Fund

- Many people are living in difficult situations (lack of shelter, food, clothing, fuel, etc.)
- Receiving weekly calls for help
- COA is working with various departments (Police Department, Board of Health, Library) to provide assistance
- The COA uses donations from the Gift Fund to provide monetary support when needed

#### D. Reminders

- Complete NEW Conflict of Interest training by June 2<sup>nd</sup> in order to remain in compliance with State law
- Update COA webpage to reflect current members and the expiration date of each of their terms

Next Meeting June 12, 2023 @ 4:30pm

Motion to adjourn by Dick Matteson and seconded by Carol Constant.

Meeting adjourned at 5:37pm

Respectfully submitted,  
Liane Pueschel, Secretary