

Robert Pueschel, Chairperson
Marilyn Ishler, Vice Chairperson
Liane Pueschel, Secretary

LESLIE HENNESSEY, Director

SOUTH HADLEY COUNCIL ON AGING
Hybrid Board of Director's Meeting—May 9, 2022
Minutes

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

Roll Call: Marilyn Ishler, Rachel Tierney, Jim Bosman, Robert Pueschel, Liane Pueschel

Absent: Carol Constant, Pamela Peck, Marsha Chapell

Guest: Kim Prough

Present: Leslie Hennessey, Director

Open Forum: No items for discussion

Approval of April 2022 Minutes: No additions or corrections. Motion to approve by Marilyn Ishler and seconded by Rachel Tierney. All were in favor.

New Business

- a. LGBTQ Training for COA staff, volunteers, Board members
 - Mandated by the Executive Office of Elder Affairs (EOEA)
 - Goal is to better serve the needs of the LGBTQ community
 - Training must be completed by June 30, 2022
 - 2 training dates (May/June) at the Senior Center
 - Can also access individually online
 - The Friends of the Senior Center are required to attend training
 - A copy of the certificate is to be forwarded to the COA
- b. Nominating Committee Appointment
 - Robert Pueschel and Jim Bosman have agreed to serve another term as Board members
 - Elections in June. The Officers of the Board are presently serving 1-year terms which will end on June 30, 2022.
 - The positions of Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, and Secretary will be open as of that date
 - If any Board member is interested in any of those positions, they are welcome to apply
 - Officers in those positions are willing to continue for another year if other members do not wish to pursue an office

Old Business

- a. Fitness Center Fees
 - All classes will be free in June to commemorate the anniversary of the COA
 - Fees will change as of July
 - All \$3 classes will be \$2

- All \$5 classes will be \$4 (fitness training, art class, etc.)
 - A Wellness Grant is available for those who cannot afford the fees and who qualify financially. Information will be in the Newsletter.
- b. WalkMass Challenge
- Kickoff at the Senior Center 5/10 @1 PM—light refreshments
 - Representative from Mass COA will be present
 - Promotions.....Word out to fitness classes, Recreational Dept., Town Reminder
 - Encourage seniors to join Senior Center Social Strollers
 - Destination walks every month to encourage walking.....different area every month
- c. Age & Dementia Friendly Update
- A meeting was held with the Town Administrator to discuss initiatives moving forward
 - The Director of the COA should only be responsible for what pertains to the COA.
 - There is a need to form a Steering Committee from each department in town comprised of people who are interested in the Age/Dementia Friendly initiative and who can share ideas from their perspective. The Town Administrator is in charge and will extend an invitation to all departments.
 - Discussion followed
- d. The Friends of the South Hadley Seniors Updates
- Packed house for Handbag Bingo. Raised \$17,500....20% more than a few years ago
 - Health Fair giveaways June 14th
 - Ice cream social July 12th (free) at McCray's. Sarah the Fiddler will perform
 - Pickleball on target. Should be ready by mid-July
 - The Friends will purchase paper goods and cover the cost of coffee for the COA for the month of June (anniversary month)
 - Interested in setting up programs for the LGBTQ community. Will seek resources.

Director's Report

A. Operations

- Have sold enough ads to add another 4 pages to the Newsletter
- In addition to The Reminder, up and coming events will be posted on the back page of the Newsletter to get the word out
- Down 2 staff positions in the month of May
- 42 vendors will be represented at the Health Fair

B. Summer Programming

- Concerts on the patio. Posters around town to promote
 - June 21st..... Jazz Quartet from Berkshire Academy. Ice cream from All Star Dairy
 - July..... Premier Swing and Dance Band/ Learn to Swing class
 - August...Noah Lis from 'The Voice'
- June 24th—Official birthday of the COA.
 - Free cupcakes and coffee at the Woodlawn Café
 - Town will officially rename the location of the Senior Center as 'Woodlawn Park'
- The Bike Walk and MassWalk Challenge will share publicity. Flyers will be distributed

C. Miscellaneous Items

- i. Transportation (free)
 - 105 rides in March, 152 in April, 89 as of May 6th

- ii. Daily Attendance
 - 81 as of May 6th
 - Seeing more traffic in the Woodlawn Café.
 - Attendance is up in the Fitness Center and throughout the building

- iii. Suggestion Box
 - Concerns regarding etiquette in fitness class (cell phones, etc.) Signs posted
 - Seniors have requested a clock for the Common Area. (ordered)
 - ? popcorn machine when movies are presented. Will check with Board of Health.

Next meeting: June 13th

Motion to adjourn by Marilyn Ishler and seconded by Jim Bosman

Meeting adjourned at 5:28pm

Respectfully submitted,
Liane Pueschel, Secretary