

DREWEY DARNELL, Chair  
Liane Pueschel SECRETARY

LESLIE HENNESSEY, Director

SOUTH HADLEY COUNCIL ON AGING  
Virtual Board of Directors Meeting—May 10, 2021  
Minutes

Call to order: Meeting called to order at 4:40pm by Chair Drewey Darnell

Roll call: Drewey Darnell, Rita Starzyk, Carol Constant, Robert Pueschel, Liane Pueschel, Mary Boulais, Marsha Chapell

Absent: Linda Young

Present: Leslie Hennessey, Director

Guests: Kim Prough

Open Forum:

- The South Hadley Tiger in front of the old Peoples Bank has been offered to the Senior Center since there is no room for it on their new site. It will be placed in the children's park next to the Senior Center. The manufacturer has said it is safe and sturdy enough to support children sitting on it, etc.
- Effective April 1<sup>st</sup>, Trio Community Meals became the preferred vendor for the Meals on Wheels Program. Leslie will check with some members regarding their satisfaction with the quality of the meals being offered.
- Positive comments regarding the new format of the Chronicle. Senior Safety articles are very informative and will continue. Safety officer, Emily Tebo, is very personable and approachable and has been at the Senior center meeting members at curbside events.

Approval of April Minutes: Motion by Carol Constant to approve the minutes, and seconded by Robert Pueschel. All were in favor.

New Business:

a. Official Opening of the Senior Center

There will be a webinar-style grand opening on June 23<sup>rd</sup>. It will be broadcast from 6-7pm on Channel 15. Several people will speak and there will be a pre-tape of staff providing the tour and showing the rooms. Will also speak with folks regarding how they feel about the new Center. Bags (250) will be distributed (which will contain a magnet, coffee mug, sparkling juice, and a chocolate). Members are encouraged to pop the sparkling juice and have chocolate at the end of the video. Hoping to provide live tours (date to be determined). Would like Board members to participate in the tours (4-5 people allowed at a time).

b. Terms for Board Members

The terms of some members of the Board are expiring as of June 30<sup>th</sup>. Liane Pueschel will remain, Drewey Darnell is undecided. Rita Starzyk and Mary Boulais have declined. Linda Young unavailable to respond. New Board members and election of officers will take place at the June meeting.

Old Business:

a. Vaccine Updates

- I. Knights of Columbus has opened as a vaccine site but is having trouble filling appointments. COA will provide help to anyone seeking appointments.  
No one on the waiting list at the COA at this time.  
There are no walk-in clinics in town.

b. New Senior Center Project

Construction is behind schedule and there has also been an issue with the Fire Supression System. Completion date moved from April 30<sup>th</sup> to May 31<sup>st</sup>. Parking lot and landscaping will be completed by May 28<sup>th</sup>.  
 Trainings have begun, with the support of members from Town Hall, for operations and maintenance positions.

c. Friends of South Hadley Seniors Updates—Kim Prough

- 120 tickets were given out for the ‘Movie for Seniors’ in the month of April and the second theater was opened in the last half of the month to accommodate the numbers. Many singles attended because they said that they felt more like they were a part of a group, rather than attending on their own.
- The Hanging Plant sale at the beginning of May was a huge success and sold out almost immediately.
- Calendar Bingo will take place in June thru July 10th
- Ice cream social in July. Hoping to plan an event at McCray’s (tent, picnic tables, music, bingo with prizes). This could accommodate 80-100 people. Special parking for those who need assistance.
- Still working on the specifics for the directional sign for the Senior Center
- Training for volunteers for the ‘South Hadley Senior Connections’ will take place within the next couple of weeks.

Director’s Report

A. Operations: Senior Center

- I. Transportation—van capacity has been increased to 3 passengers at a time and will increase to 4 passengers on 5/21.

84 rides were provided in the past month. The majority were for grocery shopping, and 16 were for vaccine appointments

235 members attended in-person programming last month.

II. Official Opening

Move in date for staff is June 2<sup>nd</sup>

Date for opening the Center to the public has not yet been determined.

Memories Café will most likely open in August. Carol Constant will be the Coordinator.

III. Grant Funding

We will not be seeking an Alzheimers’ Caregivers Support Grant this year.

Would rather have a program that addresses all aspects of memory loss. Will provide a stipend to a new hire to run the class.

1. EVIP—Grant received for charging station.

SHELD has given the COA a \$2700 grant for the cloud-based (technology) system for the charging station for 5 years. Discussion followed.

2. WestMass ElderCare—In 2-year Grant cycle. We are seeking the following grants:
  - a. Technology Specialist to be hired at \$12,000/ year (5 hrs/week) to work with seniors at the COA, with outreach to Newton Manor, Lathrop Village, and Hubert Place.
  - b. Medical Transportation 1:1 for seniors who have difficulty navigating hospitals/ doctor's offices, using our drivers. At present, we use Dial-a Ride through PVTa.

Next Meeting: June 14, 2021  
Motion to adjourn by Rita Starzyk and seconded by Mary Boulais  
Meeting adjourned at 5:35pm

Respectfully submitted,  
Liane Pueschel  
Secretary