

SOUTH HADLEY COUNCIL ON AGING  
Board of Directors Meeting—June 12, 2023  
Minutes

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

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

Guests: Kim Prough

Present: Leslie Hennessey, Director

Open Forum: Carol Constant informed the Board that an organizational meeting is scheduled to be held at the Main Library @ 11AM on 6/14 regarding the new Village to Village model.

Approval of May 2023 Minutes: Motion by Marilyn Ishler to approve the Minutes as written. Seconded by Sheila Pennell. All were in favor with the exception of Susan LaBonte who abstained.

New Business:

- a. Slate of Officers for 2023-2024 presented to the Board by the Nominating Committee
  - Chairperson Marilyn Ishler. Motion by Carol Constant to elect Marilyn as Chairperson. Seconded by Jim Bosman. All were in favor.
  - Vice-Chairperson Rachel Tierney. Motion by Marilyn Ishler to elect Rachel as Vice-Chairperson. Seconded by Carol Constant. All were in favor.
  - Secretary Susan LaBonte. Motion by Carol Constant to elect Susan as Secretary. Seconded by Rachel Tierney. All were in favor.
- b. Review of MCOA Board of Directors Training on May 31<sup>st</sup>
  - South Hadley COA had the most members in attendance
  - Independent presenter hired by MCOA was very effective
  - The session provided an opportunity to network with Board members from other COAs
  - Strategies were shared on how to move forward for the betterment of the Senior Community
- c. By-law Review of COA Policy Handbook
  - Will not be ready by target date of August
  - Process will take several more months
  - Not a by-law review as much as a Rules and Regulations review
- d. Complaint letter from an anonymous source
  - Letters must be signed to be considered valid.
  - Determined that the complaint was not a Council on Aging issue.
  - Director Hennessey will relay the letter to the Director of Housing
  - Discussion followed

Old Business

- a. Age and Dementia Friendly Updates
  - Carol Constant has been working with Dan Peese on the format for Personal Story Accounts (PSAs)
  - Will not be limited to just Age Friendly/Dementia topics

- Will solicit others to present 5-minute informational sessions on various topics (eg. mental health, safety, etc)
  - Will tape interviews and present them to Dan who will then post them on the SH public TV site at times that fit within the schedule
- b. Alzheimer's Walkathon October 15<sup>th</sup>—Holyoke Community College
- Looking for volunteers to walk as a team
  - Need to choose meeting area for Senior Center participants
  - Possibly carry a banner for the COA
  - Group Photo?
- c. Friends of the South Hadley Seniors Updates
- Free concert with TJ & The Peepers on Juneteenth at Buttery Brook Park (Front Pavillion) from 5:30-7:30. \$10 box lunch available or bring your own food
  - 6/27—Madison Curbelo will perform at Hubert Place (not open to the public). Refreshments will be served
  - 7/11—Free ice cream social at McCray's. More streamlined this year to cut down on wait time. Johnny and the Flashbacks will perform. Rain date is 7/12.
  - 7/26—Ray of Elvis will perform at Newton Manor on the 'Green'. Open to the public.

#### Director's Report

##### A. Operations: Senior Center

###### I. Statistics

- May 2019 444 participated in 2302 events
- May 2022 649 participated in 3373 events
- May 2023 783 participated in 4745 events

###### II. Upcoming Events

- 6/22—2- year anniversary luncheon celebration of the opening of the new Senior Center. Catering by Loomis Village and entertainment offered. All 100 seats filled.
- 6/28—Health and Wellness Fair from 10AM-1PM. 45 vendors will be on site. The Friends of the South Hadley Seniors will provide bags for the participants to gather information from the various vendors

###### III. Monthly Board Member Opportunities

- Remember, help is needed everywhere in the Center

##### B. Miscellaneous

- The Spanish class has been very popular and is full
- Now in the process of planning events for late Fall and Winter
- Have received a Grant from the State for 80% of the cost of a replacement minibus for the Senior Center, leaving an outstanding balance of \$22,000. There is some money in a 'Minibus Fund' that was started years ago that can be used, leaving approximately a \$15,000 balance. Looking to the Town to possibly subsidize the rest.

- The view at the end of Dayton is obstructed by an overgrowth of shrubs and is very dangerous for cars attempting to make a turn onto Fulton Street. The Director will contact the DPW.
- Carol Constant is leaving the Board after 6 years of service and was thanked by Chairperson Robert Pueschel for her dedication and contribution to the COA.

Next Meeting July 10<sup>th</sup> @4:30pm

Motion to adjourn by Marilyn Ishler and seconded by Dick Matteson

Meeting adjourned at 5:10pm

Respectfully submitted,

Liane Pueschel, Secretary