

LESLIE HENNESSEY, Director

SOUTH HADLEY COUNCIL ON AGING
Virtual Board of Directors Meeting—June 14, 2021
Minutes

Call to order: Meeting called to order at 4:37pm by Chair Drewey Darnell

Roll call: Drewey Darnell, Rita Starzyk, Mary Boulais, Linda Young, Robert Pueschel, Liane Pueschel

Absent: Carol Constant, Marsha Chapell

Present: Leslie Hennessey, Director

Guests: Kim Prough, Janet Stawasz

Open Forum:

- The question was raised as to whether Dayton Street which leads to the Senior Center is scheduled to be paved. It is in very poor condition. Possible paving in Spring of 2022. Will contact DPW to check on whether it can be done sooner.
- The new supplier for the Meals on Wheels program has encountered some operational difficulties due to lack of sufficient staffing. There are also quality problems with some of the meals. WMEC is working closely with the company to remedy these issues.

Approval of May Minutes: Motion by Mary Boulais to approve the Minutes, and seconded by Robert Pueschel. All were in favor.

New Business:

- a. A thank you and farewell were extended to the Board Members who have completed their terms on the Board: Mary Boulais, Drewey Darnell, Rita Starzyk, and Linda Young. There are three new applicants for positions on the Board. They cannot be approved by the Selectboard until their meeting on July 13th, so it was decided to move our monthly meeting from 7/12 to 7/19 to ensure we have a quorum to conduct business. Nominations for offices will occur at the September meeting.
- b. Updated move-in schedule: Staff will move in on 6/21, and the Center will be closed Monday through Friday that week. Phones will also be down. Phone service and transportation will resume the week of 6/28.
The Grand Opening of the Center will take place on 6/30 and will air on Channel 15 from 7-8pm.
Tours of the facility will begin on 7/1 and 7/2, occurring between 9AM and 3PM and lasting 30-45 minutes. Tours will continue the following week, Tuesday through Friday. Sanitizing will occur between groups.
- c. Re-opening Action Plan: Reviewed by members of the Board and discussion followed. Draft of the Action Plan was accepted. It will be signed by the Board and placed on the website. A copy will be forwarded to the Selectboard as well as to the Town Administrator.

Old Business:

- a. Vaccine Updates: No calls to the Center for help with appointments since before June. Vaccines are now readily available
- b. New Senior Center Project: Furniture being delivered this week and the cleaning of rooms has begun.

c. Friends of the South Hadley Seniors Updates

- July—7/13 from 4:30-7 to celebrate 40th anniversary of the Friends. A tent and tables will be set-up as well as space available on the grass if seniors prefer to bring their own chairs. Free sundaes, Sarah the Fiddler for entertainment. Can sign up on website or call COA to reserve a spot.
- August—another free movie series—8/10 ‘Steel Magnolias’ and 8/24 ‘Witness for the Prosecution’ at 10AM. A 10% coupon from Johnny’s will again be available for those who attend.
- October—Handbag Bingo will return on 10/22. Occupancy will be 20% less to allow for more comfortable spacing.

Director’s Report:A. Operations: Senior Center

- I. Programs and classes will be ending on June 17th, and will resume on 7/12.
- II. Gift bags celebrating the opening of the Senior Center will be available curbside on 6/30, from 10-11:30 at the new Senior Center courtesy of ‘The Friends’. The bags will contain the following: post card of the Senior Center, magnet with the new phone #, aluminum water bottle, and an engraved pen. A champagne flute, sparkling juice, and a cookie will also be included to toast the Center when the opening is broadcast at 7PM on Channel 15 on June 30th.
- III. Welcome Ambassadors:
Seeking volunteers to work at the desk for a few months to be available to answer questions and show people around.

Next meeting: July 19, 2021
Motion to adjourn by Robert Pueschel and seconded by Linda Young
Meeting adjourned at 5:30pm

Respectfully submitted,
Liane Pueschel
Secretary