

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

LESLIE HENNESSEY, Director

SOUTH HADLEY COUNCIL ON AGING
Virtual Board of Directors Meeting—August 8, 2022

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, Pamela Peck, Jim Bosman, Robert Pueschel, Liane Pueschel, Marsha Chapell

Guests: Kim Prough, Officer Emily Tebo

Present: Leslie Hennessey, Director

Open Forum:

- Carol Constant congratulated Kim Prough and The Friends of the South Hadley Seniors for their efforts in bringing Pickleball Courts to South Hadley. The Grand Opening was today, 8/8 (National Pickleball Day) with over 100 in attendance.

Approval of June Minutes: Unavailable for review. Approval tabled until September meeting.

New Business

a. Transportation Eligibility

- Senior Center Transportation Program--- Open up language to include 60 and over and those with disabilities in order to qualify for a Grant from the State to purchase a replacement van with a lift
- At times, the need for transportation can be immediate. The Director would prefer to deal with the person's need on an individual basis rather than go through the lengthy process of filling out forms and waiting for responses from various sources (Physicians, etc.) Will speak with legal to make sure what questions can and cannot be asked.

b. Master Plan Implementation Quarterly Update

- The Town Administrator has asked all department heads, boards, commissions, and committees to report their progress quarterly to the Master Plan Implementation Committee
- Updated information from the COA has been submitted
- Master Plan Goal of hiring a Social Worker and Nurse was discussed. Ann Andras is very effective in directing seniors to resources that are available to them. Presently, there is not an immediate need for a Social Worker.
- No plans to hire a nurse. If a Grant becomes available, this would be discussed with the Town Administrator. At present, we have a nurse who is on site once a month.
- Marsha Chapell volunteered her time as a nurse, with the possibility of bringing some student nurses to the Center for blood pressure clinics, etc. Will discuss her availability with the Director.

c. September 10th Woodlawn Park Celebration

- Carol Constant reminded the Board of the upcoming dedication of the Senior Center as 'Woodlawn Park' which will take place on 9/10
- Activities 11-4, Jazz band and dancing 6:30-9:30 with small plates offered (free) and cash bar

Old Business

- a. Nominating Committee Appointments
 - 3 office positions available on the Board---Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Secretary
 - Board members were asked if they would be interested in any one of the open positions
 - No volunteers
 - Chairperson Robert Pueschel, Vice-Chairperson Marilyn Ishler, and Secretary Liane Pueschel volunteered to remain in their present office for another year
 - Separate votes were taken on each candidate and the Board voted in each instance to approve the slate of officers for 2023
- b. LGBTQ+ Training
 - The State continues to mandate training for all new staff and volunteers going forward. This will be offered yearly. The COA has developed a policy reflecting this.
 - Most volunteers at the Senior Center have received the training. Three volunteers declined, citing religious reasons. The three are not in direct contact with the seniors at the COA, so they continue in their volunteer positions. The Director has reached out to the State for further direction as to how to proceed.
 - Discussion regarding moving forward with programs for outreach to the LGBTQ+ community. The Director voiced several resources that are being explored.
- c. WalkMass Challenge
 - Reminded to continue logging miles. Ends October 31st.
 - Last year the COA received \$250 towards their fitness programs
- d. Age & Dementia Friendly Committee Update
 - An e-mail was sent to all department heads to join the larger committee to help work towards initiatives that were identified in the Action Plan
 - Draft version of 'Age and Dementia Friendly South Hadley'..... a booklet that offers resources for seniors
 - First meeting of Dementia Friendly sub-committee was held
 - 2 training sessions will be led by Carol Constant and Rachel Tierney.....
 - October---Overview of Dementia
 - November---Communication Strategies
 - Some programs will be aired on South Hadley Cable TV
- e. Friends of the South Hadley Seniors Update
 - Free Sundaes at McCray's in July was very successful. 253 were in attendance. Wait time for the sundaes was very long (not enough staff, multiple requests). Probably only offer vanilla and chocolate ice cream next year (with toppings) in an effort to streamline the process.
 - Offered free coffee for the month of June
 - September is Senior Center month. Kim will coordinate a program with the Director
 - September 23rd ---Mum sale at the Senior Center 9-4
 - Looking to do larger events
 - October 6th Lunch barbecue at the COA catered by Whiskey Barrel/Entertainment by Old Country Road Band

- A directional sign for the Senior Center was discussed. The Friends could help with the cost. The Director and Officer Tebo will pursue this with the Town.

Director's Report

A. Operations: Senior Center

- June 1st-August 4th104 new seniors
- Average daily census =137
- Tuesdays and Wednesdays are the most active
- Transportation = 48 seniors signed up/ 272 rides
- EV often requested
- New dance and aerobics class (NIA) on Mondays. Very popular

B. Extended Hours

- No longer open on Saturday morning

C. Volunteer Possibilities for September 10th event

- Request for Board members to help....11-4/ 6:30-9:30. Needed for tours, clean-up, etc. A sign-up sheet will be made available
- Café will be open (with limited offerings)

Next meeting (virtual) September 19th

Motion to adjourn by Marilyn Ishler and seconded by Rachel Tierney

Meeting adjourned at 5:30pm

Respectfully submitted,
Liane Pueschel, Secretary