

COUNCIL ON AGING BOARD MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3, 2024
9:00 A.M.
PRINCETON SENIOR CENTER, 206 WORCESTER ROAD

PRESENT: BOARD MEMBERS: Jane Giumette, Barbara Guthrie, Bill Lindquist, Wendy Pape, Susan Stolberg, Michael Warren
BOARD ALTERNATE: Fran Thomas
DIRECTOR: Judith Webster
ADMIN. & PROGRAM ASST: Kelly Aveni
BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Donna MacKenzie

Minutes of the December 6, 2023 meeting were approved as presented.

Financial Report. It was noted that the accounting firm that prepares the financial statements for the town is not carrying balances forward. Efforts are being made to correct this issue. The problem is with the reporting of donations and grants. Spending for the year is on track. There will be overages in rent and electricity. The proposed FY25 budget has a 2 percent increase in salaries. More money has been added to postage, telephone, dues, licensing, memberships and newsletter preparation. The board voted to accept the draft budget which will be submitted to the town on January 4, 2024.

Programming. Pickleball continues to be played on Tuesdays and Fridays. An indoor pickleball facility with 8 courts will be opening later in January in West Boylston on Route 12. For \$20 monthly, seniors may play 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. for 1 hour. There will be an \$8.00/month charge for a second hour of play.

A zentangle workshop will hopefully be offered in February. An alcohol ink on scarves may be offered in March. A felting workshop will also be offered in February. It was noted that attendees for these art workshops must sign up ahead of time before supplies are purchased. Money was lost on the December centerpieces workshop as only three people signed up. The supplies had been purchased ahead of the sign-up deadline. Quilling is another art workshop which could be offered if there was enough interest.

It was suggested that the Center consider holding a class on "how to sell items in market place." This may be of interest for people who are downsizing. Another suggestion was to have a class on using the software program, Canva, which is a graphic arts program.

Chili Luncheon. Use of the Prince of Peace Church facility and the attendance of the Hip Swayers have been confirmed. Meat and Vegetarian Chili will be offered. Chips, cornbread, salad and cookies will be offered with the chili. The chili will be made in crockpots at the Center on the Thursday before the event. Fran agreed to do the food shopping. Judith will have name tags printed for attendees. The event will be held on Friday, January 19th at noon.

Services. Two people did not pick up hams that were donated by the Wachusett Area Rotary Club. They will be given out to two other people. There has been no change in the number of people receiving Meals On Wheels. Individuals who want/need an abatement on their real estate taxes need to talk to their tax preparer. The MA.gov site has information on this process as well.

Data Projects. Judith is hopeful to prepare and mail out a survey to Princeton seniors sometime in January. Judith and Fran will meet to review our data base as to what is there and what may be missing. It was noted that staff are in need of business cards. It was suggested that our graphic designer might assist in this project. It was noted that a \$125.00 memorial donation was received in memory of Shirley Hubbard. Thank you cards will be sent to donors and her daughter.

New Business. Barbara noted that the Wachusett Area Rotary Club has an agreement with “Trex” to collect plastics. They have several collection sites in the Wachusett area including some Senior Centers. Barbara will contact the Rotary Club for more information.

A question has been raised about changing the day/time of our Board meetings. It was agreed to check with Jen Greene about her meeting availability. The February meeting will be held, as usual, on the first Wednesday of the month at 9:00 a.m. It was noted that if there is bad weather on the day of the board meeting, a “Go To Meeting” could be held.

Mike asked if there was a need to purchase an update for “My Senior Center” software. Judith indicated that if we were to provide swipe cards (which would be part of an updated program) a front desk person would be needed to manage it which is not a feasible option at this time.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

NEXT MEETING: WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2024, 9:00 A.M.