TOWN OF PRINCETON

COUNCIL ON AGING BOARD MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, JULY 2, 2019

12:15 P.M.

PRINCETON SENIOR CENTER, 206 WORCESTER ROAD

PRESENT: COUNCIL MEMBERS: Jane Fife, Barbara Guthrie, Wendy Pape, Susan Stolberg,

Terry Thompson, Michael Warren

DIRECTOR: Aimee Kindorf

ADMIN. ASSISTANT: Nicole Boardman

ADVISORY MEMBER: William Andrysick

UNABLE TO ATTEND: COUNCIL MEMBER: Beverly Kohlstrom

Minutes of the June 4, 2019 meeting were approved as presented.

UPDATE OF MEETING WITH SELECT BOARD. Barbara Guthrie reported that many of the town committees were represented at the meeting and reported on the status of their programs. Since there was no opportunity during the meeting to bring up concerns, Barbara met with Karen Cruise following the meeting and provided written copies of these concerns for members of the select board and acting town manager. The committee meetings with the select board will be held quarterly.

Aimee reported that following this meeting the acting town manager met with her to address concerns. Karen Cruise followed up as well. In the meantime Wellington Management has completed some of the repairs and have also provided the Center with emergency procedures relative to contacting them.

Aimee’s other concern relates to the fact that the COA is not connected to the town IT network. Aimee and Nicole’s computers are not networked either so they are unable to share data. Aimee did report that they will be connected to the town server once the town offices are temporarily located at 206 Worcester Road.

There has been no movement relative to developing guidelines for usage of the Center space by other groups. Some discussion was held on how to handle the Historical Society’s request to use the building for a Sunday afternoon presentation in July.

CONGREGATE MEALS will begin on July 9th. No reservations have been received to date so staff will make phone calls to people who have participated in luncheons in the past. On the day of the luncheons, the meals will be delivered to the kitchen. Aimee will put them in the oven to keep warm when she arrives in the morning. On the Tuesdays of our board meetings, volunteers will be asked to handle the meal serving. Aimee noted that dishes and silverware will be purchased to use at meals rather than using paper products.

The Grab and Go Breakfasts will begin on July 3rh and will be available on Wednesdays and Thursdays. Funds to pay for the food will be taken from the formula grant money or the donation fund.

PROGRAMMING. Tai Chi classes will continue on Mondays throughout the summer. The instructor will be paid $25/class. Attendees will be asked to make a donation. Starting on September 23rd, instructor, Diane Moore, will lead a strengthen stretch and tone class. Diane’s fee is $40/class and again attendees will be asked to make a donation.

In response to the question, it was noted that it is common to have classes where there is no charge, and classes where a specific fee is charged.

Pitch will be offered two Tuesdays a month at 2:00 p.m. beginning Tuesday, July 9th.

The piano, donated by Jane Fife, has arrived at the Center. A gentleman has approached the Center offering to provide group piano lessons to anyone interested. Maximum size of the group is 3 people. There will be a $5.00 charge per person per class which is paid directly to the instructor.

Aimee noted that she would like to have a write up done about the history of the piano and its original owner to post in the Center.

If there is interest, Ukulele lessons will be offered starting in September. The instructor also teaches in Sterling where they now have both a beginner and an advanced group. Senior residents of Princeton will have first choice of filling the slots. The instructor will be asked to define the age limit for lessons.

Lilacs of Sterling will offer a course on August 14th, 1:00 p.m., on making a late summer flower arrangement.

The Massachusetts Association of the Blind will provide a talk on August 13th, 1:00 p.m., on low vision issues particularly around home safety issues and the availability of reading assistance.

The staff has connected with Robert Wilby, trip planner in Paxton, and the Happy Travelers group. Both have agreed to share the information about their planned trips to Princeton residents who are welcome to join these events. The Paxton trips leave from the COA in Paxton. All day trips are planned once a month. Happy Travelers trips leave from the Worcester Stop and Shop parking lot on West Boylston Street. Flyers advertising these trips will be posted at the Center as well as in the monthly newsletter.

The end of summer senior BBQ will be held on September 10th. The “Hip Swayers” will provide the entertainment.

VOLUNTEER DEVELOPMENT. Aimee will be contacting several people who have expressed interest in volunteering to help with the Tuesday Congregate meals.

TRANSPORTATION. Great concern has been expressed about the reliability of the Elderbus Service following their leaving a Princeton resident stranded at a Friday afternoon medical appointment in Holden stating they ended their hours that day before her appointment was over. The medical facility paid a taxi to bring the woman home. Aimee and Mike will meet with representatives from the Montachusett Area Regional Transit (MART) to determine if their transportation services would be a better fit for Princeton’s needs. The Princeton Center would hire the drive and scheduler, but MART would reimburse the town for these expenses. The Board asked the staff to send a letter of complaint to the State concerning Elderbus’s leaving the Princeton rider stranded.

OTHER BUSINESS. Beginning in September staff hours will be: Aimee: Monday (short day), Tuesday and Thursday regular hours. Nicole: Tuesday (short day) and Wednesday (long day). This would provide better coverage Monday – Thursday.

Plans are to organize bulletin boards better with the use of magnetic strips.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.