TOWN OF PRINCETON

COUNCIL ON AGING BOARD MEETING MINUTES

THURSDAY, AUGUST 12, 2021

9:00 A.M.

PRINCETON SENIOR CENTER, 206 WORCESTER ROAD

PRESENT: BOARD MEMBERS: Barbara Guthrie, William Lindquist, Donna MacKenzie, Wendy Pape, Terry Thompson, Mike Warren

BOARD ALTERNATE: Jane Giumette, Fran Thomas

DIRECTOR: Judith Webster

ADMIN. ASSISTANT: Nickole Boardman

UNABLE TO ATTEND: Susan Stolberg, Board Member

**Minutes** of the July 7, 2021 meeting were approved as presented.

**Covid Policy.** Effective Monday, August 16, 2021, the town of Princeton is requiring everyone to wear a mask when indoors in Princeton’s municipal buildings including the Senior/Community Center.

**Senior/Community Center Usage rules/regulations/fees.** A subcommittee including Wendy Pape, Mike Warren, Barbara Guthrie, Jane Giumette and Judith Webster will meet before the next board meeting to begin determining policies and fees for the usage of the Center by outside groups. Once the policy is approved by the board it will go to the Selectboard for final approval. Some of the things that need to be considered include: liability insurance, cleaning fees, opening fees, deposits, fee schedule for various types of groups (profit/nonprofit/community organizations/non-community organizations/individuals, etc., charging by the hour/or by blocks of time. Should there be an additional fee if a group does not leave the building secured? It also needs to be determined whether the rental monies go to the town’s general fund or to the COA budget.

Judith agreed to check with MCOA to see if they might have any policies for similar sized Centers. Nickole will check with Holden concerning their policy and Jane will check with Rutland.

**Alarm System.** Judith reported that 2 companies have come to look at the situation, another company is coming next week. American Alarm System indicated that what was needed was an “access” system. A touch pad would be located outside. Groups would be given an access code which would/could disappear into the cloud once the group had left the building. A system to track codes would have to be developed. Purchase/Installation Cost could be $3,000-$4,000 plus a monthly fee. Modifications would have to be made to the door. The owner of the complex would have to approve any building changes. Judith and Sherry Patch will write a grant to defray the cost of installing the system. Judith noted she is looking for other possible companies from which to get quotes.

**Financial Update.** The July financial report was reviewed. At some point there will have to be some adjustments in line items to reflect real costs.

**Summer Barbeque.** The barbeque will be held on Thursday, September 9th, 12:00 noon, at Krashes Field. It is anticipated that we will use the firemen/EMT association’s 20 x 30 pole tent. It is unclear at this time who will be responsible for putting up and taking down the tent. The association is also donating their propane gas grill. Open Door has provided a $300 donation. Judith will approach Fidelity Bank about a possible donation as well.

Table and chair rentals are expected to cost around $250. Judith asked that people bring any pop up tents they might have to cover other stations such as registration, entertainers, etc. Menu will include hot dogs/hamburgers/sweet corn/salads/brownies/lemonade/iced tea/water. The event will happen rain or shine. A COA information table will be set up. Open Door will have an information table as well. Fran will check to see if the Princeton Light Department may want to include information/give out free items.

**Grab & Go.** July expenditures were $240.47. The August Grab & Go will be held on Tuesday, August 24th. The meal consisting of pork tenderloin, orzo, glazed carrots and blueberry cake will be prepared by Judy Breen. Barbara, Susan and Pat K. will assist in packaging and handing out the meals. Bill will direct traffic. The September Grab & Go, on September 24th will consist of baked ziti, tossed salad and apple cake. Donna will help cook on Thursday. Terry, Pam and Barbara will package and hand out the meals on Friday with Mike directing traffic.

Judith mentioned the possibility of doing a craft project virtually as a grab & go if the Center will have to close back down due to COVID.

**Proposed Fall Programming.** Currently, the following are planned for September: Diane’s stretch class on Monday mornings; Mindfulness on Tuesdays at 9:30 via zoom for 6 weeks; Yoga on Wednesdays from 10-11 starting on 9/15 and going through October (Kate from Kate’s Powerhouse will be the instructor) (Focus will be on beginners and will cost $5.00 per class.); piano lessons on Monday afternoons; bridge on Tuesday afternoons; bingo on Wednesday afternoons. A travelogue program will be held sometime in September or October. Judith, Mike and Nickole will lead a memory training class on Tuesday mornings in October. The classes will be one hour each. Judith will be looking for a new tai chi instructor as well as someone who might teach cribbage and pitch. Trivia will be tried again in the Fall. A teacher for line dancing has not been found to date. Belly dancing could be another new activity.

This year’s flu clinic will be held on October 5th, from 9-12. It will be administered by Walgreens.

Judith noted that she is posting the calendar of activities on the town’s website. Website address will be included in the newsletter.

**Friends of COA.** There is no news to report at this time.

**Old/New Business.** Nickole reported that she has sent the list of local businesses who could be possible advertisers for the Princeton newsletter to LPI. There has been no response to date.

It was suggested that the COA find a volunteer who would be willing to send greeting cards to Princeton seniors for appropriate occasions. It was noted that Mrs Oberg is in the Jewish Rehab facility recovering from pneumonia.

Nickole reported that she has helped two residents recently with signing up to receive SNAP benefits.

Starting in October, our Shine representative will be at the Center all day on Thursdays to talk with anyone needing assistance in signing up for health benefits.

In response to Jane’s question about the use of Elderbus in Princeton, Mike reported the committee has not met for quite some time because of COVID. It appears that not many (if any) people in Princeton use the service as it is somewhat of a logistical problem. The bus does go to Wachusett House to take a couple of people food shopping.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:05. **NEXT MEETING: THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2021, 9:00 A.M.**