COUNCIL ON AGING BOARD MEETING MINUTES

THURSDAY DECEMBER 2, 2021

9:00 A.M.

PRINCETON SENIOR CENTER, 206 WORCESTER ROAD

PRESENT: BOARD MEMBERS: Barbara Guthrie, William Lindquist, Donna MacKenzie, Wendy

Pape, Susan Stolberg, Terry Thompson, Michael Warren

BOARD ALTERNATES: Jane Giumette, Fran Thomas

DIRECTOR: Judith Webster

ADMIN. ASSISTANT: Nickole Boardman

GUEST: Jennifer Greene, Town Advisory Committee Liaison

**Minutes** of the November 4, 2021 meeting were approved as presented.

**Welcome & Introduction, Jennifer Greene, COA Liaison to Advisory Committee.** Jen has been a member of the Advisory Committee in the past but recently joined the group again. She has a strong financial oversight and is looking forward to working with the COA. She noted that the Advisory Committee’s role to the Select Board is advisory.

**Financial Update.**  Cost of the grab & go this month included purchase of packaging/supplies. Expenses for coloring and recipe swaps have been just the cost of paper. It is anticipated that heat and electricity expenses will be high. Judith will have a discussion with the town treasurer about the possibility of setting up a revolving account so that any rent money or program money can go back into the COA budget to support things like heat and electricity. It was noted that the COA does not have a full year of normal expenses due to the shut down of the space because of COVID. Judith was asked to set up a date to review and discuss the COA budget for FY2023.

**Grab & Go.** The November Grab & Go attracted almost 80 participants which was the largest number to date. The December Grab & Go will be cookie platters sponsored by Quabbin Valley Health Care on Tuesday, December 21st. Judy Breen will prepare the Grab & Go luncheon for distribution on Tuesday, January 25th. Wendy, Jane and Barbara will assist with the food distribution. Bill will direct traffic. Donna will prepare Valentine breads on February 10th. Terry and Barbara will handle distribution on February 11th. Discussion will be held during future meetings as to whether Grab & Go’s will continue. The possibility of looking for sponsors to help with the cost was mentioned along with perhaps doing it less frequently. Judith noted that the program allows for community outreach. It was agreed to keep Grab & Go’s on each month’s agenda.

**Programming Update.** The Center is participating in the Sherriff’s new coat drive during December. The winter card making may be a hybrid event. Other activities include 3 exercise classes with Kate’s Power House, coloring, piano lessons, tech support, bridge, and mahjong. Game day has not attracted anyone but it will be advertised again in January. Cribbage and Pitch were suggested. It is hoped that Tai Chi will again be offered starting in January. A four week memory training program will also be offered in January. Mindfulness will restart in mid January. Participants will be asked to prepay for the classes to ensure payment to the instructor.

It was noted that the COA program information in the “Redemption Rock News” is incorrect.

Other possible programs in the future include an Antique Road Show (possibly in the Spring) and a Health/Legal directives program. It was also noted that the Senior Center should promote the fact that members of the fire department will go to the homes of senior residents to do fire safety assessments.

The men’s group attracts approximately 6-10 men weekly. They have attended several sporting events during the last few months, gave out turkeys for Thanksgiving and will give out hams in December, both of which are supplied by the Wachusett Rotary Club. An Australian Outback guide recently spoke at a meeting.

**Access Control System Update.** Three bids were received. However, they were not comparable. Richy Bisk and Phil Connors have agreed to serve on a committee to review and renegotiate the bids received. The bids received ranged from $2,500 - $5,000. A monthly fee will also be included in the expense for the system.

**Use Policy Update.** It was reported that the Select Board approved the policy with a 2-1 vote after removing the reference to children under 6 not being allowed to attend adult meetings. Mr. Montcreaff noted he wanted to work with the Parks and Recreation Director to bring children’s programming into the building. To date there has been no formal proposal made by Mr. Montcreaff on this subject.

It was noted that Judith is not only the COA director but is also the facilities manager for the space. It was noted that the COA needs to be proactive about having a clear vision of what the Princeton COA wants to be.

**New Business.** Wendy has agreed to send out Christmas cards to all Princeton seniors who are 80 years old and above.

Fran reported the Housing Committee is meeting via zoom. She noted she felt there was a lot of background information that she needs to be brought up to speed on. The finished report is to be completed no later than August.

Fran thanked board members for all the work everyone does for the Center. She also noted that perhaps the Center could send cards to families who may have lost a senior in town and to recognize birthdays of seniors.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

**NEXT MEETING: JANUARY 6, 2022, 9:00 A.M.**