

TOWN OF PRINCETON
COUNCIL ON AGING BOARD MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2019
12:15 P.M.
PRINCETON SENIOR CENTER, 206 WORCESTER ROAD

PRESENT: COUNCIL MEMBERS: Jane Fife, Barbara Guthrie, Beverly Kohlstrom, Wendy Pape,
Susan Stolberg, Terry Thompson
DIRECTOR: Aimee Kindorf
ADMIN. ASSISTANT: Nickole Boardman
ADVISORY MEMBER: William Andrysick
UNABLE TO ATTEND: COUNCIL MEMBER: Michael Warren

Minutes of the October 1, 2019 meeting were approved as presented.

MySeniorCenter Update. Staff has completed their data base training. Data from town records for residents age 60 and over have been entered into the system. Additional data such as home and cell phone numbers, email addresses and emergency contact information need to be secured and entered. A system to add additional people when they become 60 needs to be determined.

November/December Programming. Food for 75 people will be planned for the November 19th Harvest Luncheon. Terry Thompson agreed to assist in the purchase of paper goods for the meal. Board members were asked to help with set up on Monday (11/18) at 12:30 and Tuesday (11/19) at 11:00 a.m. It was agreed to raffle off a few grocery gift cards.

Reservations are full for the Harrington Farm Holiday Luncheon on 12/12/19. A wait list has been started. Aimee will check with Harrington Farm to see if more spots could be made available. Selectman, Richard Bisk, will speak and introduce the new town manager.

A fall bakeoff is planned for November 18th. To participate, people must sign up in advance and agree to share their recipes. Start time is 11:00 a.m. Aimee will approach town hall staff about being judges. Prizes will be awarded.

Discussion was held about doing a December food event. The decision was made to host a tea and holiday cookie event on a December afternoon.

Lilacs of Sterling will lead a holiday decoration class on December 9th. (Snow date will be 12/16). The arrangement will include greens and flowers. The event is limited to 5-7 people.

Piano and ukulele lessons, bridge and exercise classes will continue throughout the winter. There is considerable interest in having another water color class session. The bereavement and men's groups will continue. Weekly hikes will be discontinued for the winter. A luncheon will be held around Valentine's Day with entertainment provided by Steve Henderson.

On January 14th, a speaker is scheduled to talk about "The Power of Positive Thinking." Other program ideas included a book club, arm chair travel speakers and historical society speakers.

Transportation Update. In discussions with MART administration, changing Princeton's elder bus program from the WRTA to MART would be a very significant and lengthy process. It was agreed to talk with WRTA officials first, before considering a move to MART, to see if a better plan could be worked out for Princeton residents.

Age Friendly Initiative. This is a statewide program to help communities be more committed to serving the needs of its senior citizens. It involves both physical needs (i.e. walking, etc.) as well as communication concerns. There will be more to come on this program including trainings. The Central MA Planning Council can provide technical expertise on this topic. The Princeton Fire Department was commended on their work in this area, particularly in the area of meeting medical needs.

Outreach Efforts. A list of names and addresses of people over the age of 80 living in Princeton was distributed. An effort will be made to determine who on this list may need some type of special assistance. It was agreed to begin by sending a letter to everyone on the list letting them know about the senior center and what it offers to our town's seniors. Board members were asked to let Aimee and Nicole know if they have any information on the people listed who may need help.

Aimee has been in touch with a 3rd grade teacher who is interested in starting a pen pal program with Princeton Seniors.

Budget Update. A financial statement of funds dispersed through October 28th was distributed and reviewed. To date approximately 25 percent of available funds have been dispersed. However, some known expenses, such as building repairs and maintenance have not been dispersed from the budget to date even though the money has been spent.

Other Business. More board members are needed to help serve during the Tuesday luncheons.

Nothing is happening at the moment with establishing a "Friends of Princeton Seniors" nonprofit organization.

Aimee will find out more about the agenda for the proposed board training session to be held on December 4th in Hubbardston.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m. Next Meeting: Tuesday, December 3, 2019, 12:15 p.m.