COUNCIL ON AGING BOARD MEETING MINUTES

THURSDAY, MAY 5, 2022

9:00 A.M.

PRINCETON SENIOR CENTER, 206 WORCESTER ROAD

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

Warren, Wendy Pape (via zoom)

BOARD ALTERNATES: Jane Giumette, Fran Thomas

DIRECTOR; Judith Webster

ADMIN. ASSISTANT: Nickole Boardman

GUEST: Jen Greene, Advisory Committee

ABSENT:

BOARD MEMBERS: Susan Stolberg, Terry Thompson

**Minutes** of the April 7, 2022 meeting were approved as presented.

**Grab & Go.** To date, $1,627 has been spent on the Grab & Go’s. Approximately 60-75 people have participated per month. Oriel Health Care is underwriting our May Grab & Go which will be held on Thursday, May 26th. An ice cream social will be held in the back parking lot of the senior center in June. It is not known at this time whether it will be underwritten or if the COA will pay for the social. At our June board meeting a discussion will be held concerning the future of the Grab & Go’s. If they are to continue, a plan needs to be put in place to relieve Fran and board members of bearing the full responsibility of preparing and distributing the meals.

**Financial Update.** The town’s financial office has begun to add in gifts and donations into the monthly reports. The exercise programs are beginning to be self funded. It appears that the FY23 budget will be approximately $106,000 which includes the additional hours for Nickole. In addition the COA will receive $2,500 for capital expenditures.

**Programming Update.** Overlook Farm will lead an herb container garden workshop. Cost will be $10/person. Recipes will be included. The Farm may be dropping off vegetables for seniors during the summer.

In June, Quabbin Valley Health Care will sponsor a breakfast. MA College of Pharmacy will present a 15 minute talk about medications. The event will be limited to 30 people or less.

The Center hopes to begin offering a walking group starting in June. Judith is trying to find someone to lead the group which will walk in the Stagecoach and Hickory Drive neighborhoods.

Jen Geene reported that Attorney John Mirick offered to have his office staff prepare the paperwork for the formation of a “Friends of Princeton COA” organization. Filing fees would be somewhere close to $1,000. It was suggested that the COA investigate the possibility of securing ARPA funds to pay for the fees. There is a possibility the friends group could piggy back on the town’s nonprofit status or create our own nonprofit status. The majority opinion indicates it would be best to be independent.

**Access Control System.** Judith reported that a consultant will develop a set of specs for the system. She will then go back to the companies who submitted bids asking for new bids based on the uniform set of specs that they will be given.

**New Business.** Judith reminded board members whose terms are up as of June 30, 2022, that if they wish to continue they must reapply on line on the town’s website. Applications are due on May 18th by 5:00 p.m. There are 3 board member positions and 2 alternate positions that are expiring this year.

Discussion was held on the need for emergency coverage in the office if/when staff are unable to cover their normal hours in the office. Board members indicated they were willing to assist in this capacity when needed and are available. It was requested that Judith and Nickole develop an outline of basic instructions for use by board members when/if there is need for board coverage.

Their will be an Elderbus Meeting in Charlton on May 10th at 9:00 a.m. Since Mike will be away, Judith asked if anyone was willing to attend the meeting to let her know.

Also, the town is looking for volunteers to assist in the planning of town Memorial Day activities. If interested, please contact Sherry Patch, our town administrator.

Judith reported that the Center is receiving more and more calls from people looking for transportation to mainly medical appointments. Discussion was held about the possible need for on call drivers to take a driver safety course, be Cori’d and have appropriate insurance.

Wendy reported thank you notes had been written and mailed to COA volunteers in recognition of Volunteer month (April).

Fran reported that the Princeton Housing Planning Committee would be holding a workshop on May 16th at Thomas Prince School from 6:30-8:00 to talk about people’s vision re the future of town housing.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:15.

**NEXT MEETING: THURSDAY, JUNE 2, 2022, 9:00 A.M**.