

COUNCIL ON AGING BOARD MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 4, 2023
9:00 A.M.
PRINCETON SENIOR CENTER, 206 WORCESTER ROAD

PRESENT:	BOARD MEMBERS:	Jane Giumette, Barbara Guthrie, William Lindquist, Donna MacKenzie, Wendy Pape, Susan Stolberg, Mike Warren (via zoom)
	BOARD ALTERNATE:	Fran Thomas
	DIRECTOR:	Judith Webster
	ASSISTANT COORDINATOR:	Colleen Mullaney
	GUEST:	Jen Greene

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

Ham Distribution. Thirteen hams were purchased for approximately \$140.00. An additional 7 hams were purchased with a donation from Leigh Hudson who had won tickets to the Worcester Chamber Music Society concert at the Princeton Congregational Church. The distribution list was revised and 19 of the 20 hams were picked up at the Center before the holidays.

FY2023 Financial Report. The financials are in good shape. The EOEA funding does not show up yet in the report from the town. Judith believes the State has distributed it but the town has not reported it yet as having been received. The town has switched propane companies.

FY2024 Budget. It appears that the wage study the town is going to undertake has not begun. Judith checked with other towns as to what the going salary rate appears to be for COA directors. The lowest was around \$28.50 with the highest around \$35.00. Most salaries were in the \$30's. Wendy will submit a letter with the budget submission requesting the Director's salary be raised to \$33.50 and the Assistant's to \$21.00 (a 4% increase). It was reported that offering benefits to town employees who work over 19 hours is a Princeton rule and not something mandated by State/Federal law.

Capital equipment does not have to be included in the town meeting warrant if the expenditure is under \$20,000. Judith is recommending the rug be replaced in the large room and that we replace the main door system. A \$2,500 ARPA grant was to be used to help with the door expenditure. Jen Greene will research as to where that money is. Moving forward, estimates need to be gotten for the rug and door replacement. It was agreed to put \$10,000 in the capital line item and get estimates for the actual costs of these two items.

Programming. Volunteer Tea will be held on Wednesday, January 25th at 2:00 p.m. Current and potential new volunteers are invited to attend. A list of activities that volunteers are needed for needs to be developed. Other ideas will be welcomed as well. A discussion about starting a "friends of the Princeton COA" will also be on the agenda. In the meantime, Jen Greene agreed to talk with John Mirick about soliciting his help on this project.

Chocolate Tasting event will be held at 12:00 on Wednesday, February 1st.

Valentine's Day Grab & Go will be a "Chat & Go" and will be held on Tuesday, February 14th at 10:30 a.m. Coffee, tea and cookies will be served. Attendees will be given a bag of treats and a plant to take home.

Lectures. Stephanie Fattman, Registrar of Probate, Worcester, MA, will speak on Wednesday, February 8th in the morning. Colleen Mullaney will give a talk on sleep hygiene (how the lack of sleep can affect people) on a date to be determined in March.

Newsletter Update. It has been reported that the pink lettering used in the newsletter is difficult for some people to read. It was suggested that volunteers could be used to solicit additional ads for the newsletter. Wendy suggested a

picture of our building be included in the newsletter rather than using a picture of a random structure which is currently happening.

Outreach. There appears to have been no response from the Christmas cards that were sent to town residents who were 80 years old and above. A brief discussion was held on reaching out to seniors via phone calls. It was noted that most people do not answer their phone if the call is from someone they do not know.

New Business. Wendy reported that the Parks and Recreation Department is preparing a grant to upgrade Sawyer Field in East Princeton. A pickle ball court will be included in the grant. Donna MacKenzie agreed to serve on the pickle ball committee once it is established. It does not appear that Krashes Field or the Thomas Prince School will be available to use for a pickle ball court. Wendy will check to see if seniors can have designated hours for using the court once it becomes a reality.

Fran reported that the Housing Committee report was accepted by the Planning Board and the Select Board. It now goes to the State for review. Once the State accepts it, a town task force will be appointed to determine next steps in developing a Housing Production Plan.

The COA is no longer required to conduct board meetings via zoom when we are meeting in person. Zoom meetings will continue however if board members are out of town and can join in from their out of town location.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:05.

NEXT MEETING: WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2023, 9:00 A.M.