COUNCIL ON AGING BOARD MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2023

9:00 A.M.

PRINCETON SENIOR CENTER, 206 WORCESTER ROAD

PRESENT: BOARD MEMBERS: Jane Giumette, Barbara Guthrie, Bill Lindquist, Donna MacKenzie,

Wendy Pape, Susan Stolberg, Mike Warren

BOARD ALTERNATE: Fran Thomas

DIRECTOR: Judith Webster

ADMIN. & PROGRAM ASST: Kelly Aveni

**Minutes** of the October 4, 2023 meeting were approved as presented.

**Financial Report.** The lease on the senior/community center space has been renewed for another 5 years. Rent has been increased so the budget will show a shortfall in that line item. Judith did not attend the conference in October which was in the budget so there will be a savings there. Three quotes are being secured to replace the carpeting in the large room with a laminate. All capital items must be submitted to the town by November 10th. It was suggested that if the flooring does not get approved as a capital item, that it gets submitted as a special article at the spring town meeting.

**PAS** Holiday show will be held the first and second weekends of December. Items for the show will start coming in as of November 28th. All items will be removed by December 12th. All items will be stored in the middle room between weekends.

**Cultural Council Grants.** Two grants have been submitted. One will support a water color class. The other will support the compilation of 25, two minute stories told by Princeton seniors about what is special to them about living in Princeton. The Council also extended the grant the COA received for entertainment by the Hip Swayers.

**Programming. Pickleball.** The code for the building where the pickleball equipment is stored at Krashes Field seems to have been given out to people who are not supposed to have access to the equipment. The equipment has been found in a mess. A better storage box is also needed for the equipment. Judith noted that the codes for Krashes Field and the Senior Center need to be changed.

Eight people attended the recent **CPR** class. Additional classes will be held when/if there is a demand.

The **Shine** representative will be on sight 4 days in November and 1 day in December before the health insurance enrollment closing date.

Another date has been set up for people to finish their **baskets.** The baskets were started on October 10th and will be completed on November 8th. Another basket class may be held in late winter/early spring.

It was noted that the **Ted Reinstein** talk brought new people in to a Senior Center activity who had never attended any programming before.

A luncheon will be held on November 14th at the **Princeton Municipal Light Department** for seniors to discuss rebates, etc. Val’s restaurant will cater the meal. The time of the event was incorrect in the November calendar.

A **Paper Ornaments** to be led by Judy Dino will be held on November 9th from 12 – 2. Cost will be $5.00. A **Polymer Beads** workshop to be led by Heather March will be held on November 16th. Cost will be $25.00.

A lecture on **Advanced Directives** will be held on November 15th.

A **Holiday Centerpiece** workshop to be led by Bobbye Samdahl will be held on December 5th using live greens.

A Senior Holiday Luncheon will be held at **Harrington Farm** on December 7th. Attendance will be capped at 100-125 people.

A **Felting** class will hopefully be offered some time in January.

Judith suggested that the COA hold a **Chili Luncheon** in January at the Prince of Peace Church. The Hip Swayers would be asked to provide entertainment.

Discussion was held on having a speaker from MIT come to discuss the history of **Israel and Hamas**. While everyone thought the topic would be excellent, it was agreed that the timing was not good to have this happen now due to the controversy the situation is causing among the public.

**Wachusett House Update.** Ten people signed up to attend a luncheon put on by the COA. However, only 4 people showed up. It was agreed that we not plan any other activities there for now. Some discussion was held on doing something for elderly residents in Princeton other than just Wachusett House residents. Wendy noted she will send out Christmas cards to residents over 80.

**Services. Fuel Assistance.** Judith reported that MOC has been providing good service for people needing fuel assistance. It was questioned whether there was any money still available from the Hearts for Heat program. More people have been signing up for the **Food Pantry,** particularly homebound people. Tim Fluery does the delivery of the food pantry items. Donations of **firewood** have been given to 4 residents. 20 – 25 people will receive **turkeys** that

have been donated by the Wachusett Area Rotary Club. A list of recipients was put together by the COA staff.

**Data Projects.** Fran continues to work on updating the mailing list and will be given her own log in information for the   
“My Senior Center” data base.

**New Business.** It was suggested that our COA mission statement be re-written and that statements be secured from seniors regarding the positive impact the Senior Center has on their lives.

Growing Places will no longer stop at the Center due to low volume of participants.

Barbara noted that the description of the Cribbage games held on Mondays will be rewritten to include other games in addition to Cribbage.

**NEXT MEETING: WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6TH, 9:00 A.M.**

Meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.