

MEETING MINUTES

Town of Heath
Council on Aging
Senior Center
August 21, 2020

Called to Order at 2:00 p.m. with Eileen Lively, Gloria Fisher, Liz Scalzo, Victoria Burrington, and Donna Hyytinen in attendance.

Review Agenda: No changes.

Welcome and Introductions

Eileen welcomed the newly formed Council on Aging members and introductions were made.

Overview of Open Meeting Law

Gloria explained how the open meeting law works and referred everyone to the documents the Town Clerk provided when they were sworn in. It was noted that it is important to follow the regulations because this provides transparency to the general public and so that there are no questions as to how or why a decision/vote was made.

Goals and Duties

Eileen explained what the Senior Center does and what services it provides. She noted that Heath has a high percentage of seniors (anyone 60 or older). Discussed what kind of resources are available to Heath seniors. Eileen detailed what services the Senior Center has been providing: senior art program, sewing group, senior art show at the library, foot clinic, home repair program, annual Heath senior art show, and SHINE counselor. The foot clinic and the home repair program are funded by competitive grants that Eileen has applied for and received through the LifePath (Franklin County Home Care Corporation). Victoria mentioned that the Heath Union Church has a Deacon's Fund that could possibly help support the home repair program.

COA Mission Statement

Gloria and Eileen provided some background regarding the history of the Senior Center, the Council on Aging (COA), and the Community Hall Committee and their interactions. Gloria explained the state grants that COAs receive from the state's Executive Office of Elder Affairs, formula grants. She noted that most COAs use their formula grant money to support their local senior centers. Discussed the difference between COAs and seniors centers. It was agreed that the Heath senior center would be supported by the COA. Two draft mission statements were presented for discussion. On a motion by Victoria and seconded by Eileen, the COA voted unanimously to adopt the following mission statement:

“The Council on Aging's mission is to establish and work with the Senior Center to provide programs and services for Heath elders and to enrich the lives of residents in the community as they age by providing services and programs in a welcoming, respectful, and safe environment.”

Future Actions

The COA discussed what ideas on what to offer in the future and what kind of resources we know about that should be shared with seniors. Possibilities for future activities include movies, grab 'n go meals, and in-person meals. Discussed whether we want to check in with people to see how they are doing, perhaps volunteering to be the people who use the emergency call list. We could develop our own volunteer team to help the COA. Also discussed cleaning up the kitchen to get rid of expired foodstuffs, inventorying the supplies, and the possibility of buying round tables and reorganizing the layout of the senior center.

Election of Officers

After discussion, Victoria nominated Eileen and Gloria to be co-chairs. There being no other nominations, Victoria moved that the COA appoint Eileen and Gloria as co-chairs with a second by Liz. The motion carried unanimously.

Victoria nominated Liz Scalzo to be secretary. There being no other nominations, Victoria moved that the COA appointing Liz as secretary with a second by Eileen. The motion carried unanimously.

Discussed when the senior center could open again. It is a decision that needs to be made by the Select Board and according to the Governor's recommendations. It was noted that the Heath Historical Commission would like to meet with the COA to discuss dual programming.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held September 4 at 2:00 p.m. Discussed meeting twice a month for a while and then just once a month.

Liz moved to adjourn with a second by Victoria. Vote was unanimous. The meeting adjourned at 3:30.

Respectfully submitted,

Gloria Fisher
Co-chair, Heath COA