

COUNCIL ON AGING
Room 118, 18 Jacobs Road
Meeting Minutes Thursday, October 7, 2021

Present: Victoria Burrington, Margaret Freeman, Donna Hyytinen, Sue Lively, Cathy Tallen

The meeting was called to order at 2:05 p.m. An item on brownbag lunches was added to the agenda.

M/S/P Cathy, Donna, unanimous: to approve the 9/30 minutes as written.

Survey: the following wording was revised and added to the survey draft: “or to the town office drop box.” In addition, it was decided to add a category for preference for future contact. Margaret will make changes and make copies for the volunteers to distribute once the survey is finalized.

List of volunteers: Members have been reaching out for volunteers in all twelve areas. Eighteen people so far have volunteered. Others still have not yet responded. The Council will create work groups to develop a plan for procedure. Survey recipients will be assigned to individual volunteers once we have received sufficient numbers of volunteers. Donna agreed to help Margaret with Area #1.

Instructions to volunteers: Victoria will send Margaret the completed instructions to upload to Slack before the next meeting. They will include the fact that survey responses are confidential, that volunteers should not discuss issues beyond the survey’s purview, and that a time limit will be set for returns. Victoria and Fred Burrington will provide the art thankyou cards for the volunteers once the survey is completed.

Proposals for COA sponsored activities: David Eade has requested sponsorship for Qigong sessions starting November 1 from 9:30-10:30 a.m. in the JR atrium for a maximum of twelve participants, masked and socially distanced. Donations will be requested and proceeds given to the Charlemont Good Neighbors Food Pantry.

M/S/P Margaret, Donna, unanimous: to sponsor David Eade’s application to the Select Board for the Qigong program.

Discussion of “Grant Watch”: Victoria noted that membership is \$200 per annum and could be taken from COA’s Formula grant. It provides access to thousands of grant opportunities that can be searched by filter. Margaret noted that Grant Station (through Tech Soup) is similar and may be cheaper. She will check for eligibility and cost. Other local senior centers will be asked about their access to grant opportunities: Victoria / Shelburne Falls, Donna / Colrain.

Brownbag lunches: Victoria asked if COA could start a socially distanced brownbag lunch program in the JR cafeteria once the Select Board allows it. It was decided to defer the proposal until after the survey is completed, so that we could include it in launching a fully developed plan for Senior Center operations.

Other business: The Council will need to discuss the COA town website page at some future meeting.

M/S/P Donna, Cathy, unanimous: to adjourn at 3:32 p.m.