

COUNCIL ON AGING
Cafeteria, 18 Jacobs Road
Meeting Minutes Thursday, October 28, 2021

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

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. Sue announced that the Select Board need to set a time for posting the senior program coordinator position. COA will be invited to a meeting to discuss. No date yet given.

M/S/P Cathy, Donna, unanimous: to approve the 10/14 minutes as written.

Survey: Members reported on the current status of survey returns. Most have been completed, with some more to come in by the October 29 deadline. Several issues that had arisen were discussed, including cataloging the existence of “the Heathan recluse,” the non-return of phone calls, difficulties encountered with the broadband phone system, and missing seniors from the original list.

Survey tally: Cathy noted that she had already started compiling results by age group. She found in her own work in collecting surveys that encouraging respondents to discuss in more detail elicited more meaningful comments. Using a survey sheet for each age group, she recorded how many checked individual boxes, and made notes of any comments made.

M/S/P Sue, Donna, unanimous: to adopt Cathy’s method of tracking to collate information from our own group packets by age group and to bring compiled tallies to the next meeting.

Members were asked to put contact preferences, moves, and deaths on Slack for Margaret to collate separately. Cathy volunteered to collate the total numbers.

Grant Station: Margaret offered to sponsor COA to share Grant Station information through the Myrfield Institute for Cognition and the Arts (MICA). She suggested that COA could try out the software to see how helpful it in fact is for seeking grant possibilities before committing themselves to membership.

Sue described the current vulnerability plan in the works with FRCOG for Heath that impacts seniors and which would identify strengths and problems for the town and provide possibilities for grant seeking. The draft is scheduled to be completed in early 2022 by FRCOG and then shared with Heath for next steps to be discussed. With everyone agreeing with the difficulties presented by Heath’s physical isolation, Sue then described her dream for bringing clinics, workshops, etc. to Heath. Cathy offered to provide LifePath’s list of possible events and workshops for COA to explore whether any could be brought to Heath.

Other business: Victoria will draft the article for the *Heath Herald* on our survey work to the next meeting for acceptance for the December 1 issue. Margaret will put total count and names of volunteers on Slack and bring to the next meeting on Tuesday, November 2 for sending thankyou notes provided by Fred and Victoria.

M/S/P Sue, Cathy, unanimous: to adjourn at 3:25 p.m.