

Council on Aging
Zoom Meeting
Minutes Thursday, February 17, 2022, 2:00 p.m.

Present: Victoria Burrington, Margaret Freeman, Donna Hyytinen, Sue Lively, Cathy Tallen. Guest: Stan Swiecz.

Meeting called to order at 2:00 p.m.

Review Agenda: Formula Grant.

M/S/P Margaret, Sue, unanimous to move the tai chi discussion to the beginning of the meeting to accommodate the instructor Stan Swiecz's attendance.

Tai Chi proposed program status: The dates of Tue-Thurs 10-12 have been reserved on the town calendar, starting the first week in March. Instructor Stan Swiecz walked COA through the program, starting with the 24-movement short form, teaching walking and fundamental movement. Participants will be asked to show proof of triple vaccination, use masks, and preserve social distance. The program will start with 6-8 people on Tuesdays, with the addition of another group if needed on Thursdays, or the Tuesday group meeting twice a week. It will be intergenerational, with people contacting Stan to register (best by email). Stan provided COA with a participant viability waiver for instructor and town he has used in the past. The instructor will not charge, "unless a fee would enhance student commitment." Donna and Margaret will meet with Stan tomorrow at 10:30 to show him the facilities at 18 Jacobs Road.

M/S/P Sue, Cathy, unanimous: to approve the 02/03/22 minutes as amended.

Status of request to BOS re. COA use of rm 135 at 18 Jacobs Rd.: No decision so far. COA needs a place to call home, especially with the needs of the Art program for space and storage. The Select Board has identified Grade 11 (\$20 per hr.) for the Senior Program Coordinator. The Council will also consult the FRCOG booklet summarizing salaries for each town for each town position. Since, with lack of funding, there will be no appointment made for the foreseeable future, members agreed that we should start with what we can do in the way of events and activities for safety and the possibility of using volunteers. From February 24 to present, there were 32 visits to the Walk Safe program from Heath, Colrain, Charlemont, and Rowe. The discussion will be put on next meeting's agenda.

Finances – Foot Clinic Grant account: It still seems that the amount of \$3,000 has not yet been applied to the foot clinic account. Victoria will arrange to meet with the accountant to go over three-years-worth of grant and donation records.

Formula Grant: The deadline for application for the next \$6,000 grant is March 28, prorated by whatever is left over in the current account. Victoria will check if monies need to be spent by the end of the fiscal year or by date of application.

M/S/P Margaret, Sue, unanimous: to approve no more than \$1,300 for the March foot clinic out of the Formula Grant.

Grant news: Chatlos has not responded to phone calls on the eligibility question.

Volunteer polling progress: It was decided that all hard copies of the surveys be given to Cathy to be kept in one place and for ease of checking information.

Library cooperation discussion: Margaret described her phone discussion with Deb Porter, library trustee, over the possibility of sending a letter, jointly or separately, to the Select Board recommending a committee be set up along the lines of the Deerfield Connecting Community Initiative (CCI) to explore a vision and strategic plan for Heath's future. Given the current failure among certain groups to compromise or reach consensus on issues, it was felt that now is not the appropriate time to attempt such an effort. Members agreed that individuals need to hear from others who disagree with them and those who speak or write publicly in an inappropriate manner should be addressed directly.

Age-friendly survey: With the zoom time allowance running out, discussion will be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

M/S/P Margaret, Sue, unanimous: to adjourn at 3:17 p.m.