

**Council on Aging
Cafeteria Meeting, 18 Jacobs Road
Minutes Thursday, May 12, 2022**

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

Meeting called to order at 2:02 p.m.

Added to the agenda: Consumer Protection; ADA Compliance.

M/S/P Cathy, Donna, unanimous: to approve the 04-21-2022 minutes as written.

COA Funding: The sum total of appropriations at the annual town meeting is \$3,200 as follows:

- Operating account (to pay dues to the Massachusetts Council on Aging): \$500;
- Senior Program Coordinator: \$1,250;
- Foot Clinic: \$1,200;
- COA expenses: \$250.

The Council also has a revolving account for senior meals to receive donations, with up to \$3,000 that can be withdrawn without special permission. The current balance is somewhere around \$2,500-2,600.

Volunteer polling: Donna gave her completed list of responses to Cathy. Victoria waiting for two more. Sue waiting for two to confirm. Margaret has one response so far.

M/S/P Margaret, Cathy, unanimous: to move Social Activities to the end of the agenda.

Senior Art Program: The program meets every Monday from 1:00-3:00 p.m. in the Municipal Building Cafeteria. Eileen Lively will continue to help, with Victoria looking for additional volunteers to cover Monday meetings.

Foot Clinic: Eileen Lively has withdrawn from organizing the Clinic. With no money left in this fiscal year, it was decided to postpone the Clinic at least to July, when \$1,200 is available. Victoria spoke with the current Clinician, Piper, and expects to hear from her next week as to whether she wants to continue, with her PPE supplied by the town's Emergency Management Director. Victoria will possibly reach out to another Clinician currently in Charlemont, and talk with Eileen concerning the different options we

have. Some discussion then ensued over possible ways to charge for the program. The Council needs to find someone to schedule appointments and run the clinic.

Consumer Protection: Cathy attended a recent webinar and noted that Anita Wilson from the Northwestern Attorney General's Office has material and a regularly updated flyer on advice to people experiencing scam calls and will come to Heath for a public presentation. It was suggested that the event be scheduled at least a month ahead to allow for promoting it to Heath and neighboring towns. Cathy will contact Anita with a possible date the first week in September with a start time of either 1:00 or 2:00 p.m.

ADA Compliance: Sue noted the town has received an invitation to attend a 2-day training workshop in June on how to understand ADA regulations and evaluate building compliance. The town already has a report on Sawyer Hall. The Council recommended that someone from the Building Facilities Committee should be asked to attend.

Social Activities: Margaret commented on the first two Thursday activities held from 12:00-2:00 p.m., the first being a dramatic reading of Hemingway's "A Clean Well-Lighted Place" performed by Don Decker, Kate Barrows, and Hilma Sumner. Discussion at the second included the possibility of setting up a tent outdoors. Since it was felt inadvisable to hold an indoor Community Café for the near future, with a continuing COVID surge, the Council decided to pursue the idea of an outdoor tent. Cathy will talk with Doug Wilkins about borrowing his tent, and Margaret will ask Jonathan Diamond if he plans to set one up during his Hilltown Youth Theater summer activities. It was decided that the Council should reach out to other town Boards and Committees to invite participation in a Town Open House to be scheduled sometime around the end of September, beginning of October. Margaret will draft an invitation letter to be discussed at the next meeting.

Other Business: The Council followed up with its plan to include an item in each Heath Herald issue. M/S/P Sue, Donna, unanimous: to approve the draft wording for the forthcoming Heath Herald issue.

M/S/P Sue, Donna, unanimous: to adjourn at 3:22 p.m.