

**Council on Aging**  
**Room 135, 18 Jacobs Road**  
**Minutes Thursday, May 18, 2023**

**Present:** Victoria Burrington, Margaret Freeman, Lyra Johnson-Fuller, Donna Hyytinen, Sue Lively.  
**Absent:** Cathy Tallen. **Guest:** Jack Tierney.

Meeting called to order at 1:30 p.m.

Review Agenda: Grant discussion; movie license; art program.

M/S/P Sue, Donna, unanimous: to approve the 5-04-2023 minutes as written.

**Finances:** *COA accounts.* Victoria still needs to meet with the accountant again concerning the Foot Clinic account. The Wells account was listed at the end of the town report.

**Hot lunch planning:** *Meal charge.* A donation box will be provided at the hot lunch with a note for suggested donation of \$5. Victoria has invited the Union Church Pastor, Police Chief, and Fire Chief. Lyra will send a reminder to John and Nick for the May 31 hot lunch. Places will be reserved up to 64 people to accommodate attendees to the Bob Viarengo presentation. Eight tables will be set up to enable easy movement around them. Alice has not yet set the menu except for a blueberry dessert (Victoria providing the berries from the Benson Place) and will let us know about future scheduling for the fourth Wednesday of each month. 3-5 gallon pig buckets will be provided for leftovers. Lyra has arranged for help during the lunch and will provide flowers for each table. She will deliver meals to the homebound and try to find people who need support.

\*On a future agenda: Decision on providing homebound meals to shut-ins for November and December.

**Senior Program Coordinator Report:**

- Sandy Denis will attend the June 5 art program to initiate acrylic classes, with enough materials for six.
- Movie license: \$270 annual fee. A computer cable hook-up is needed for the smart tv to show u-tube classes via HDMI. Victoria agree to donate an adaptor.
- The Council agreed that the next COA flyer would combine the months of June and July, with updates sent as needed.
- Arts&Crafts: Donna needs someone to cover July 24. No plans for August/September.
- Community Café: May 27. Bakers have been identified and coffee creamer and extra sugars ordered. Margaret will purchase Keurig coffee.
- Play dates: 9 people have already reserved tickets. Lyra will ask Hilma to send an email opening up offering to everyone in town. Other local senior centers will be invited if there are free tickets left over.
- Bernardston grant: For computer devices, assistance, and staff training. Lyra will contact Jennifer to confirm Heath's participation and let Pat McGahan know about the grant.

**Future planning:**

- Patio: Will Emmet will organize a small committee, and Margaret will follow up with him on it.
- Heath Day: With the Fire Department's pig roast planned for September and a pancake breakfast in June, it was decided to put off the idea for this year and plan for next.
- Solarcan: The library has set up two cameras for time-lapse photography in preparation for a future astronomy program.
- Workshops: Plans will be put underway for flower arranging, basket weaving, and candle-making, with a soy candle kit already ordered.

**Grant discussion:** Jack worked on the application process for the Mass Cultural Council grant and concluded that it was not a good fit for us at this point. Once we have a structure in place to implement it, we can apply another year.

M/S/P: Sue, Donna, unanimous: to accept Jack's recommendation not to apply this year.

Theater group: Jack distributed the playbills for his show June2/3.

The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday June 8 at 1:30 p.m.

M/S/P Sue, Donna, unanimous: to adjourn the meeting at 3:00 p.m.