

**Council on Aging**  
**Room 135, 18 Jacobs Road**  
**Minutes Thursday, October 5, 2023**

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

Meeting called to order at 1:31 p.m.

Review Agenda: Covid update, Cultural Council, Sue's emails, division of responsibilities.

M/S/P Cathy, Margaret, unanimous: to approve the 9-14-2023 minutes as written.

**COVID update:** An uptake in cases across the board has occurred, including at least three cases in Heath. The Board of Health is attempting to get more accurate information. The Northfield COA have adopted the recommendation of masks. The Council will continue to keep an eye on what is happening.

M/S/P Margaret, Cathy, unanimous: to generally encourage masks, screen for exposure or other cold symptoms at the senior meal and reduce numbers at each table.

**Senior Program Coordinator Report:**

- *October Activities:* Oct 11, Gentle Yoga, 11:00 a.m. in the Atrium; Brownbag lunch 11:45 a.m. Oct 19, Digital Literacy Training, 1:00 p.m. Oct 21, Square Dance, 7-10 p.m. in gym. Donna will call for refreshments and supplementing water supplies. Oct 25, Senior Meal, 11:45 a.m. Lyra reported that there was some consensus among the Bones&Balance group that the program should move back to the Community Hall. It was noted that it is not a COA program, but under the purview of the town nurse.
- *Cultural Council grant:* Only one proposal will be accepted. Lyra will decide what to apply for.

M/S/P Margaret, Cathy, unanimous: that all COA programs fall under the Senior Program Coordinator's purview. Discussion defining the Council's responsibilities to be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

- *Digital Literacy Grant:* Training on the six donated tablets will take place at 1:00 p.m. Oct 19 in Room 135. Those wanting computer training tips may come a little late at 1:30 p.m. Wednesday mornings will be available for internet use. Further general training will be scheduled in the future.
- *Senior meal:* Donations for the September meal were approximately \$260. There are enough volunteers for the October meal. On the agenda for the next meeting: Call for major donations to support the Senior Meal and Foot Clinic programs. Victoria will provide the logistics of numbers for possible shut-in meals to be provided by volunteers during the holiday period.
- *Fundraising:* The Artisans Bazaar is scheduled for December 2 in the atrium. COA will organize a bake sale and raffle.

**Solar eclipse:** Oct 14 is only partial; total eclipse to occur April 8, 2024.

**Age-Friendly Release Plan:** Olver Transit Center, Greenfield with lunch November 16, 12-2:00 p.m. Council members urged to register. Margaret will check with Hilma whether the Select Board voted to join and, if so, to submit application.

**Moved to next agenda:** Sue's emailed concern about Community Café attendance; Memory book.

**Volunteer Referrals:** Lyra will provide list in 5 groupings for Council members to reach out to volunteers to sign up through LifePath.

**Heath Connects and Heath Herald:** Sue had suggested that a Heath resident might write an article regarding their experience of COA activities. Margaret will ask (in order) John Henry, Diane Cerone, and Bob Viarengo.

Next meeting: Thursday October 26 at 1:00 p.m.

M/S/P Margaret, Donna: to adjourn the meeting at 2:30 p.m.