

Council on Aging
Room 135, 18 Jacobs Road Municipal Building
Minutes Thursday, December 7, 2023

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

Absent: Victoria Burrington.

Meeting called to order at 1:30 p.m. Sue Lively agreed to chair the meeting.

Review Agenda: none.

M/S/P Cathy, Donna, unanimous: to approve the 11-09-2023 minutes as written. It was agreed that future agendas will include a follow-up to assigned tasks.

Senior Program Coordinator Report:

- *Holiday Bazaar:* The raffle and bake sale went well, with \$403 donated so far. The raffle will continue to December 16. A request was made to have whole items available at future bake sales. Another volunteer has been added to the bake list.
- *Tech Support:* A delegate from the grant attended the December 7 meeting and brought an additional Claris tablet available for a senior. Pat McGahan was present to help seniors with their questions on usage. The next meeting is scheduled for January 11.
- *LifePath:* One volunteer has already signed up with *LifePath* and will be asked to share the procedures with future volunteers. Heathans wishing services must also sign up with *LifePath*. Donna noted that none of the seniors she contacted on her list were willing or able to volunteer after all. Some discussion ensued about reaching out to the community at large. It was agreed that an appeal for volunteers should be included in the *Heath Herald*.
- *Senior Activities:* The next senior meal will be in January. Yoga classes will also start again that month. Brownbag lunch and game time are scheduled for Wednesday, December 13. The solstice celebration will be held Sunday, December 17 at 3:00 p.m. in the atrium and outdoors.
- *Grants:* Baystate Health grant was not given, since there were no funds to support the clinic. SPC will try Wells again in the Spring and LifePath in April. A grant is needed for replacement of the front door at the municipal building. SPC will ask Claire about other grant opportunities. For the Cultural Council's grant, interest has been noted for a needle-felting workshop. The Council received a thank-you note from the wet-felting leader for use of the Senior Room. SPC will check with Victoria concerning the square dance invoice.

Age-Friendly Community: Margaret attended the luncheon announcing the 2024-2028 Regional Plan. Eight domains have been identified. It appears that Domain 1: Outdoor Spaces and Buildings may have grant opportunities for the patio and front door projects. A copy of the plan will be made available in the Senior Room. Victoria will be asked to check with Meg Ryan about a possible dementia meeting.

Heath Grief Support Group: We are on the waiting list of various organizations. Follow-up to be added to the next agenda.

Homebound Meals: Meals were provided at Thanksgiving for the few who had been identified. SPC will take care of the two needed for Christmas. The possibility of holding a holiday meal bridging Thanksgiving and Christmas will be considered for next year.

Memory book: It was agreed that Senior Center historical items would be best preserved in a scrapbook that could be added to and available for viewing in the Senior Room. Sue and Margaret will meet in the New Year to begin the process of creating one.

Next meeting: Thursday January 11 at 1:30 p.m.

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