

**Council on Aging
Room 135, 18 Jacobs Road Municipal Building
Minutes Thursday, March 20, 2025**

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

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

Review Agenda: Social Security, Green Burial

M/S/P Anne, Cathy, unanimous: to approve the 1-22-2025 minutes as written.

Follow-up Notes: Margaret talked with Hilma about possible grant funding for the patio project. February 1 not feasible for current application. Margaret will obtain estimates for the patio foundation part of the project (the entire project also needs an estimate for funding any portion of it) before we start looking for grants.

SPC Report: Attached. After discussion, it was decided that Lyra and Alice will complete the Life Path-required Senior Meal survey to bring to the next meeting for vote.* Lyra will also contact relevant departments to create an emergency planning team: EMT-Tim Lively, Fire-Nick Anzuoni, Board of Health-Gene Garland, Town Nurse-Claire Rabbitt, 1 rep. from COA.

M/S/P Anne, Cathy, unanimous: to direct Lyra to form a meeting with the emergency planning group. Sue and Lyra will meet to complete the SPC yearly review.

Needles&Crafts: The decision was made to suspend meetings and revisit the program in the Fall. Discussion of creating a COA display at this year's Heath Fair to be placed on next meeting's agenda.*

Senior Outreach Mailing: Idea cancelled for now.

SSA: Seniors will not be able to access the Social Security Administration by phone after March 31. Cathy will contact Life Path to find out what is being done to help seniors with online or in-office contacts (also for Green Burial-see next item) and to report at the next meeting.*

Green Burial: Sue noted our past discussions for a workshop, possibly run by Mr. Kelleher from the local funeral home. The Town should have a document available to provide the necessary points on what is needed for families to do. Sue will meet with Hilma on whether the Board of Health should take this on.

Town Survey Responses: First report drafts submitted – Anne on items relevant to shared information with Board of Health and Parks&Rec, and Margaret on organizing comments for easier reference to match with questions.

Next meeting: Monday April 14 at 1:30 p.m.

M/S/P Anne, Cathy, unanimous: to adjourn the meeting at 3:04 p.m.

**Note: Asterisks identify items for future agenda.*

Senior Program Coordinator's Report for Feb./March 2025

Upcoming Programs: Sue Draxler will be leading two arts workshops this spring, supported by the Heath Cultural Council. The Pysanky Egg Decorating is on April 11th, and the Silk Painting is on May 16th. We will have a second scapbooking workshop likely this summer. Bill Lattrell and I scheduled the spring walk for seniors for Friday, May 23rd. We will plan a (somewhat) accessible location in Heath. The Library has another story and musical performance for adults coming on April 5th, with Heath's John Clark guest starring, I'll be sure to invite seniors.

Grants: I submitted the Fred Wells grant application for the foot clinic, we're requesting \$1,000. At the foot clinic this week I'll be giving seniors a standard satisfaction survey as required by the grant we received from Lifepath for the foot clinic. We are also required to take a couple of photos of seniors getting their feet done, with their permission (they will have a photo release form to fill out). I need Alice's and your input on a survey for the senior meals, I'd like to have seniors fill it out at the April senior meal to fulfill the Lifepath grant requirements. Amy Krane had sent an email asking the COA about applying for a grant to do a community mosaic project. I had a conversation with her and Kate B. at the library about it and will share more about this at the meeting.

Other: The COA thank you note for filling out the surveys was submitted to the Herald, along with an ad for the spring workshops, and calendar dates. I paid the renewal cost for the Mass. COA membership (\$280). If we could make a date for the COA and I meet with the Heath Board of Health and Emergency team for future state of emergency planning that would be helpful with communication being difficult during a power outage. Last year a meeting of this nature had been talked about but I don't think it ever took place. Sue L. and I worked on and submitted an annual report for the Executive Office of Aging & Independence (AGE). This made us realize that a huge number of volunteer hours are put in annually, mainly by the COA members, and I thank you all for your many hours and talents you have shared.

Meg Ryan will be unable to attend a meeting or conduct a program for a few months, she will be in recovery from a surgery soon.

The grief support group is going well, three people attended so far.

My yearly review is due soon.

Senior Outreach: Still finding a few more seniors to add to the email list.

~Lyra Johnson-Fuller 3/17/25