

**Council on Aging
Room 135, 18 Jacobs Road Municipal Building
Minutes Monday, May 15, 2025**

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

Absent: Donna Hyytinen.

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

Review Agenda: none.

M/S/P Anne, Cathy, unanimous: to approve the 4-14-2025 minutes as written.

Follow-up Notes: Sue spoke with Matthew Lively for an estimate on patio excavation. Matt visited the site; no estimate yet. She also spoke with Claire concerning the green burial cheat sheet, and gave her a letter outlining the suggestion for the Cemetery Commission. Matt Lively as sexton and burial agent thought the cheat sheet a good idea. The Council discussed the possibility of a presentation on burial options and estate planning.

SPC Report: Attached. An icecream social with story hour is planned this Saturday May 17 sponsored by the Friends of the Library. Lyra will arrange photos. Cathy will be in charge of social café during the event. Over 30 senior meal surveys were completed, with comments on social nature of the event and suggesting food ideas. Lyra will find out if she can the number of respondents in the circulated LifePath survey on Heath. Correction: the ATM donation for the April senior meal was \$370. An Emergency Planning zoom meeting is scheduled May 19 at 9:30 am. Sue and Anne will attend. Lyra's concern is communication for planning to open the Senior Center in future power outages. Various zoom meetings have been scheduled: Aging Policy update May 21 at 2:00 pm; Social Security: May 22 at 2:00 pm; Disability rights June 5 at 11:00am. Members should let Sue know if they plan to attend and give a report at COA's next meeting.* Lyra has a phone meeting scheduled at 3:15 pm with the accountant, who had placed \$2,000 for chef Alice's salary in the wrong account. Sue will send an email to the Select Board with concern over handling of COA accounts.* She will meet with Lyra to go over the books with an eye to the fiscal year changes. It was agreed that COA would not be able to take over the ham & bean supper for the Heath Fair. A suggestion has been received for a talk on veteran benefits and the possibility of involving more men in the Senior Center, perhaps by creating a men's club. Housekeeping notes: Margaret will see to cleaning the Keurigs on a regular basis, and will coordinate with Lyra in checking what supplies could be purchased at Ocean State Job Lot.

Action Plan: The aim is for COA to develop a clear focus on priorities. Members should start reviewing the current Action Plan created by the Action Team, and come with suggestions for the first two domains at the next meeting.*

Room 135 Design: It was noted that the red chairs currently in the Community Hall were purchased by COA for the senior meal. It was decided to bring six of them (after cleaning) to the Senior Center.

Display at Heath Fair: Sue suggested many possibilities for a display in the Exhibit Hall. Ideas are needed for an attractive display. It was agreed that June would be devoted to members bringing materials to Lyra to store for a display plan to be created in early July.

Patio Progress: Sue expressed concern over the question of priorities, and named the question of safety, finances, and ease of maintenance. Margaret responded that the whole plan involved a lengthy procedure of planning and finding resources, both volunteer and financial, before presenting to the Select Board for approval. It also involves Parks & Rec as responsible for Heath's ownership of outdoor spaces.

The need for more fund raising will be on COA's next agenda.*

Next meeting (tentative): Thursday July 10 at 1:30 p.m.

M/S/P Anne, Cathy, unanimous: to adjourn the meeting at 3:05 p.m.

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

Senior Program Coordinator's Report for May 2025

Upcoming Programs: May 16th: Silk Painting at 10:00. May 23rd: Heath Hike with Bill Lattrell, meet here at 10:00. Grief support group is on May 30th. Beeswax Food Wrap Workshop with Eileen Lively will be on June 13th per request, we still have supplies left from last time. Any ideas for a program in July?

Surveys: Results of senior meal survey for Lifepath grant: Very positive reviews with mostly 5-star ratings for both the dining experience and food. I'll share comments and suggestions with Alice. If you'd like to take a look at the surveys, they'll be at the meeting, then I will send them along to Lifepath in June.

Results of the Lifepath survey for Heath: I forwarded the email to the COA on Monday.

Other:

I'm about half-way through the AARP course and thought it might be good to review the action plan our sub-committee had put together earlier (along with other collected data), so that we can have a clear idea of what our goals are for progress towards our community becoming age and dementia friendly (on the agenda). The AARP suggest working with other town committees.

Annual Town Meeting COA Breakfast Sale results: Happy mouths and tummies and about \$360 in donations to go toward the senior meals. Thank you to the bakers and volunteers! I feel it was worth the effort.

Emergency Planning Meeting: They are still deliberating about the time, but it looks like it will be on May 19th if a COA member would like to attend (via zoom).

We recieved some info on Social Security, I'm determining the best way to share it.

I'm attempting to make arrangements to speak with the town accountant to gain clarity on recent COA financial reports and balances. I wanted to meet with him and Sue in person, but he seems to only be able to do a phone call.

Sheila Litchfield has asked if the COA would like to hold a ham and bean supper on the Friday night of the Heath Fair in place of the Ladies' Aid, who won't be able to this year. I said I would check with the COA, but am unable to personally commit to this with my other existing duties for the fair.

Housekeeping notes: Wondering if we can clean the inside of Keurigs, etc.

Wish List:

New Coffee Urn (32-40 Cup)

Kitchen Towels for dishes

Calculator

Bowls for senior meals

Thank you!

~Lyra Johnson-Fuller 5/12/25