

**Council on Aging
Room 135, 18 Jacobs Road Municipal Building
Minutes Thursday, July 10, 2025**

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

Absent: Anne Emmet

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

Review Agenda: Move Action Plan before Heath Fair.

M/S/P Cathy, Donna, unanimous: to approve the 5-15-2025 minutes as amended.

Follow-up Notes: Sue attended the Social Security zoom meeting which was not particularly helpful. Sue emailed the Select Board concerning the error in the COA accounts. She received a final estimate for patio excavation from Matt Lively: \$2,250 for excavation, gravel added and packed down. The Emergency Personnel team did meet, and COA to keep track of any expenses incurred in their use of Room 135 for meetings, training, etc.

SPC Report: Attached. It was agreed to ditch the non-functioning printer in Room 135. A LifePath announcement was emailed to seniors regarding the availability of \$25 for seniors to use at regional farmers markets. It was agreed that donations will be suggested to compensate Simonne for the painting class. Sue will purchase a couple of online basket-weaving materials with directions for making to see if they would be useful for us. Lyra will post pictures of the successful Lattrell hike in the next issue of the *Heath Herald*. Sue noted that Pam Porter attended the meeting of the federal Medicare Patrol Program that has money available on how to read Medicare reports and appointment tracking. Lyra will contact the Shelburne Falls Senior Center to see if they would take the lead in setting up a program for neighboring towns. Lyra will send a thankyou note from COA to Gene and Cindy Garland for their generous donation of an air conditioner for Room 135.

Action Plan: Domain 1: Outdoor Spaces and Buildings. It was decided to focus on improving accessibility for seniors with 1) automatic entry doors; 2) improving or replacing the curb in front of the building; 3) creating walkways and patio for outdoor use. Domain 2: Transportation. Further communication to seniors on options is needed. Discussion covered 1) repeating the original mailing with revisions (*Cathy to look for the original copy and date when last reviewed); and 2) liability to town. It was decided that *Margaret would produce a draft for Domain 1. *The discussion for Domain 2 to be continued. *Members will review Domains 3 and 4 for the next meeting.

Display at Heath Fair: Various ideas were put forward, including a senior village, pictures, art examples, and a sign-up list for email and phone to be placed in a dropbox. Lyra will work on the set-up and call on members to help. *Sue will take care of the official application for the Exhibit Hall.

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

Next meeting: Thursday July 31 at 1:30 p.m. to work on physical exhibit for the Fair.

M/S/P Cathy, Donna, unanimous: to adjourn the meeting at 2:50 p.m.

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

Senior Program Coordinator's Report for June/July 2025

Upcoming Programs: Per request from a Heath Senior I reached out to Gene Garland, Heath's new Veterans rep to give a presentation with an open time to ask questions about Veteran's rights and benefits available to them. Gene will be available in late August, so we will plan a date when he's ready.

I heard from a couple of guys that they're interested in a men's group to chat. John Clark might be able to be a casual facilitator/host. He wouldn't be available until August or September. Simonne, our foot nurse, has offered to guide a simple painting class for Heath seniors. They would all be doing the same scene with different outcomes. I'd like to plan that for the Fall.

I'm searching for someone who can teach basket making, people have asked for this craft workshop. I can apply for a grant through the Heath Cultural Council in October for this. Bill Lattrell's hike in the Cook State Forest was very well attended and enjoyed. We learned so much, and Bill is planning another COA hike for the Fall. I sent him a thank you note from all of us.

Grants update: We received word that the Fred Wells Trust has granted the COA \$1,000 for the foot clinic. For our two current Lifepath grants, I submitted the required updates and surveys to Lifepath in June (deadline is in July). Lifepath they said they will let me know if they will have the funding to renew the two grants sometime this summer when they find out (fingers crossed).

Finances: As far as I know, the accountant has corrected the donations account deposits that were put in the wrong account.

Other: The Heath Herald deadline is now, is there anything the COA would like to include for a brief article?

I found out that 19 Heath residents completed the Lifepath survey (results were shared in May).

Fundraising for Senior Meals: Still trying to brainstorm ideas. Alice has been doing a great job staying under the food budget for the last few meals.

Heath Fair Display: Over the next few weeks I will work on the display board. For the backdrop I'll use the decorative paper that was donated by Eileen and Victoria if you think that sounds good.

The Senior Center received an AC donated by Gene and Cindy Garland. Gene kindly installed it for the 90 degree heat wave, so we had a very cool cooling center. Feel free to put it on as needed.

Thank you to the COA for your help with laundry, flowers, cooling centers, senior meals, baking desserts, getting supplies and coffee, hosting open hours, giving rides, counting donations, the bake sale at the ATM, and more! I couldn't do it without you!

~Lyra Johnson-Fuller July 2025