

Pelham Council on Aging Minutes
May 12, 2021 3:00 PM

Call to order: 3:05 p.m.

Members present: Tracy Osbahr, Grace Dane, Nancy Rose Weeber, Jane Porter.

Warrant: Tom Terault, \$25 (food delivery); Grace Dane, \$50 (birthday cards):
Total: \$75

April 14, 2021 Minutes: Accepted as written: aye Tracy Osbahr, aye Grace Dane, aye Nancy Rose Weeber

My Senior Center Info: not available, due to Kathy Martell's absence. Tracy will ask Bob Agoglia to contact Xavus to avoid any more delays.

Increasing COA Visibility: Discussion continued from April 14th re: ways in which to increase the COA's visibility in our community:

- Creation of a two-sided "COA services & contact info" card for Pelham police to distribute to vulnerable Pelham elders, and Chief Thomann is enthusiastic about the idea. Jane will provide a draft prior to June COA meeting.
- The Pelham Community Preservation & Housing Committee may request the COA's presence at the June 1, 2021 meeting, so that we can participate in discussion re help for Pelham elders. Tracy will notify COA members if the request is received.
- Reviewing periodic Quabbin Health District updates re health info.
- Pelham COA email address: Tracy will clarify with Susannah Carey re: activation and use.
- Nancy will send updated Resource list to council members so we will be prepared if Pelham elders phone or email with questions or requests for help.

Review of Outreach Worker job description: Lengthy discussion continued re: search for a Pelham outreach worker: specific requirements re: credentials and experience, where to publicize, specific hours, salary vs stipend/volunteer position. Tracy will finalize ad and submit to *Pelham Slate*, *Amherst Senior Spirit*, *Amherst Neighbors* newsletter, nearby town newsletters (e.g., Shutesbury, Belchertown, Leverett, Hadley...) and post on Pelham's website. We edited and enhanced the detailed "job description" and will submit to the Pelham SB for approval prior to posting on town's website.

Report on MCOA “Small and Rural” conference: Nancy reported on the day-long conference she attended (April 28, 2021). Theme of the conference was *resilience* and *positivity*. Nancy encouraged all council members present to join MCOA, which offers extensive information and opportunities, and to watch the conferences’ recorded videos available on MCOA’s website. Most of the info provided during day’s workshops was geared toward COAs that have a senior center and paid staff, which Pelham lacks. Conference highpoints: re-opening (scaling up), transportation issues, food issues, ongoing covid-19 concerns.

Old Business: Grace reported that Community Hall work is complete, and storage area can be used. Tracy will coordinate with Kathy transfer of COA materials from the library to Community Hall.

New Business: Next COA meeting: Wednesday, June 9 at 3 p.m.

Adjourned at 5:22 p.m.

Submitted by Nancy Rose Weeber