

Pelham Council on Aging Minutes • June 9, 2021 • Via Zoom

Call to order: 3:05 p.m.

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

Warrant: \$25 Tom Terrault (food delivery)

Approval of May 12, 2021 Meeting Minutes: aye Tracy Osbahr, aye Nancy Rose Weeber, aye Grace Dane.

COA information card for Pelham Police Department: Members thanked Jane for creating an info-card draft for police to distribute to vulnerable seniors. Several suggestions offered. Jane will add town personnel email addresses and prep for final approval in July.

Prioritization of Senior Survey results/recommendations: Discussed long list of suggestions from survey responders, including: access to a COA email address, creation of a *listserv* for exchange of info between seniors, creation of a pertinent town-info insert for Grace to include with birthday cards, delivery of library books to seniors, and collaborating with other town committees and county/state agencies (e.g., Pioneer Valley Planning Commission's "Age & Dementia Friendly Communities"). Several seniors are interested in home inspections (e.g., safety issues), support groups (e.g., health issues, grief support, and computer tech instruction) and information about town-wide internet and/or phone notification during emergencies. Will continue discussion in July.

Community Hall update: Grace talked with Linda about possible re-opening of PCH. The COA will invite Linda Hanscom (Pelham Community Hall Committee chair) to overview the space.

Report on June 1st Pelham Housing Committee meeting: Tracy and Nancy attended. Focus: helping seniors with housing issues and concerns and to help them stay in their homes as long as possible. Discussed tax rebate program ("circuit-breaker"); town tax-abatement program; covid-19 federal relief; "Wayfinders"; PVPC (Pioneer Valley Planning Commission: health and housing concerns) and how to inform seniors about these programs. Reported on "22 Amherst Road" project, two "Habitat for Humanity" houses under construction, and plans for PVTA bus stop and sidewalks. Next Housing meeting: July 6. Tracy and/or Nancy hope to attend.

Outreach Worker position update: Tracy submitted blurb in Amherst's *Senior Spirit*, Pelham town website and various area town websites. Two candidates have expressed interest.

Old Business: Tracy reported on *MySeniorCenter* software program and access; will contact MSC to arrange training date(s) for interested COA members. Info videos also available.

New Business:

- MA Senior Medicare Patrol
- Discussed Summer meeting schedule. Discussed hybrid meetings and decided: too difficult to manage.
- Next COA meeting July 14 meeting at Pelham Community Hall or Pelham library (TBD).
- Nancy proposed consideration of October 13, 2021 as possible flu clinic date. Tracy will contact John Ochs to reserve that date.

Adjourned: 5:10 p.m.

Submitted by Nancy Rose Weeber