Council on Aging Meeting Minutes

Wednesday May 15 2019 3:00 pm

Pelham Library

Call to order at 3:10 pm

Members and People Present Kathy Martell, Grace Dane, Ralph Faulkingham, Ann Hondrogen Isabel Ryavec and Wanda Kelly

Minutes of April 10 2019 amended for a typo in the spelling of Linda Faulkingham’s name . There was a discussion about listing the names of those absent , so everyone could see who didn’t attend. Board members queried as to preference and 2 said yes list absentees 3 said no there is no need to list absentees. Discussion of clerk/secretary for COA. Ann stated that Kathy does it all. Kathy offered the job to board members and directly to Ann and was declined.

Warrant was voted and signed for $1,615.80. $1,200 for Xavius Solutions for MySeniorCenter computer program; $50 Howard Frost stipend for brown/blue bag delivery; Wanda Kelly stipend (2 months $150/month) $300; MCOA invoice $30 for class Ann Hondrogen attended and $35.80 mileage for Ann for travel to class. Wanda’s mileage for training was not totaled so will be submitted on another warrant Wanda is continuing to get necessary training like: Shine, Fuel Assistance etc. A Vote was taken that this initial training can be part of her necessary hours to be paid stipend. Ralph suggested an Outreach worker job assessment should be done in July. Also discussed; there are classes/events for our COA members and Outreach worker to attend like MCOA events and costs to be voted to be paid by COA since we are members. Ann Hondrogen volunteered to attend one and reported that it was a great class. She said there was a power point presentation link to view <https://mcoaonline.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/MCOA-Small-and-Rural-Conference-RL-Slides-4.17.18.pdf>

There were some goals listed about strengthening connections in our community, information communication, changing conversation to increase literacy about issues related to aging, encourage age friendly policies and to sustainably guide and support the work of Age Friendly Massachusetts. She suggested we have a community picnic instead of a senior picnic. It is difficult to manage something on that scale.

Discussion of “my senior center” computer program for organizing and documenting COA work. This program was accepted at last meeting and information will be sent to COA members for involvement in the process and use of the program

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Outreach worker Meet and Greet update and postcard mailing to announce it to seniors. Grace and Kathy to do postcards as have worked on this in the past. Ralph spoke to Jodi in the library about setting this event up. The board voted the June 8 date ferom 10 AM to 12 Noon and Jodi was going to get Jerry Weinstein to play again and confirm with Ralph. We discussed set up and would arrive around 10 AM and provide the light refreshments. We would ask Jodi about tea like the library supplies for their events and the COA has bottled water to put out. Ralph offered grapes and choc chip cookies and coconut macaroons Grace said she would like to make choc chip without nuts so Ralph agreed to not make them. Ann offered flowers and Kathy reminded her about the “no smells” policy of the library she said ok but WL brings flowers to the library a lot. She then offered cheese and crackers and possibly coffeecake Wanda offered brownies and Kathy said not sure but she would bring something different than already named.

Discussion of Senior Survey and newsletter. Ann said Kathy said no to the newsletter, but was reminded that Kathy said first copy needed to be mailed to seniors and then they could supply their email to the COA if they preferred to receive it that way; otherwise it would be mailed. We discussed mailing the survey together with the first newsletter (to save postage). No actual survey questions were submitted by members; but Ann and Ralph wanted to work on the survey. Ralph said he had experience creating surveys. The live near each other and could meet together outside of a meeting so Kathy appointed them as a 2 member Task Force to create a Survey and bring it back to the members.

Discussion of Senior Summer Picnic We are working on dates possibly July 27, 2019. Will discuss more at next meeting, Need to see if Lions Club members want to assist again as they have in past two years.

Discussion on Community Hall use. Wheelchair /accessibility updates (ramp. Bathroom and kitchen updates) in progress Kathy to discuss storage options with Linda Hanscom to move COA supplies from Library to Community Hall

Next scheduled meetings: June meeting will be on Wed the 12th, and summer meetings tbd generally 2nd Wednesday of the month

Adjourn at 5:13 PM

 submitted by Kathleen Martell