

Council on Aging
Town of Pelham
Pelham Library

Minutes for the meeting on Wednesday, February 12, 2019

Present: Grace Dane, Linda Faulkingham, Ralph Faulkingham, Ann Hondrogen, Wanda Kelly, and Isabel Ryavec.

The meeting convened at 3:05 PM.

1. Ralph reported his recent telephone conversation with Kathy about the progress of her recuperation from knee surgery. We shared what we knew, and all expressed the sentiment that we wish Kathy a speedy recovery.
2. Kathy's copious and informative minutes for the meeting on January 17 were read and approved without dissent.
3. Wanda noted that she has not started working yet and is not on payroll. Following Kathy's counsel, Ralph encouraged Wanda to call Kathy who is well informed from her counterparts in Amherst about next steps for Wanda.
4. Ann asked about the work that Wanda will do for Pelham seniors, and Wanda responded, noting her desire to do home visits to insure that seniors have the equipment they need, that they live in proper housing, that if they qualify for food stamps, they have them, and if they need emergency fuel assistance, she stands ready to help. She noted that she will be hired for 12 hours per week.
5. Ann responded more broadly to ask about what the Pelham COA actually does. In response, current COA members recalled several activities that engage the Council, but we urged Ann to ask the questions again in Kathy's presence, given Kathy's wealth of knowledge and experience. Ann noted that she would very much welcome opportunities to get the word out to Pelham folks about COA activities and resources, perhaps in a newsletter. Grace noted that in a recent COA survey of seniors, most respondents noted that they do NOT want more newsletters.
6. Ann, holding a copy of a newsletter *The Senior Spirit*, produced and distributed quarterly by the Council on Aging in Amherst, point out that there is a news section aimed at Pelham seniors. However, some of the news items there appeared to be obsolete.
7. We then embarked on some thinking out loud of possible activities to bring Pelham seniors together. Wanda suggested a senior social around St. Patrick's Day, and cited her own experience in putting on socials and her knowledge of a very good band we could hire. Grace then noted that in the past Pelham seniors have had successful summer potlucks. Ralph noted that we might follow Amherst's lead in making seniors' homes safe, and he promised to do some research on the topic and bring back to the Council what he learns.
8. Our meeting adjourned at 4:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Ralph Faulkingham, note taker