

Council on Aging of Williamsburg and Haydenville

Minutes of the Meeting of March 20, 2024

Present: Mary Bisbee, Toni Boughton, Daria D'Arienzo, Chris Flory, Dianne Martin, Maureen O'Brien; Director Melissa Wilson. Quorum was met. Meeting called to order at 12:17 p.m.

Minutes: Motion to accept the Minutes of the Meeting of February 21, 2024. (Seconded)

Director's Report:

Programs and Events:

- **Meal Program:**
 - Highland Valley Meals (HVES): Three new people have signed up for meals. The new numbers may be sufficient to avoid cancellation.
 - Food Program: Tamar Smith has resigned, and her position, which is being advertised, may be restructured. There will be clarification within a month.
- **The Living Well newsletter** will lose its SIG funding after July 2024. The Williamsburg Senior Center will continue to produce a four-page edition (without regional insert), will promote the digital version, and provide printed copies at Meekins and other frequented locations. Continuation of the regional section is up in the air.
- **Spring Fling entertainment** with Patrick Callinan, supported by the Elder Trust, will be held on Thursday, April 25th: *Nourishment for the Soul* will take place at 12:15 p.m. after the congregate meal, available to 20-21 seniors. Several Board members have volunteered to help with arrangements.

Old Business:

- **Tech Connect Workshops:**
 - Volunteers are needed for the ***Tech Connect Fair*** at the New Hingham School on April 6th. Contact Peg Whelan at 413-296-5080 or [nhillcoatech@gmail.com\(?\)](mailto:nhillcoatech@gmail.com)
 - ***Cutting the Cable Cord*** workshop, which will be held on Saturday, April 20th from 11a.m-12p.m. at Meekins Library, is all set for volunteers. Tech Days at Meekins, a collaboration between the library and the Senior Center, is part of the infrastructure for dealing with the senior digital divide in Williamsburg, which has been in operation for some time, and will continue post-Tech Connect grant.

New Business:

- **C.O.A. Board Membership and Voting Clarification:** Voting Members of the C.O. A. Board are Dianne Martin, Daria D'Arienzo, Maureen O'Brien, Toni Boughton, and Mary Bisbee. Associate members are Gerry Mann, Linda Gibbon and Chris Flory.
 - Three voting members provide a quorum necessary to conduct business dependent on a vote.
 - The Board will discuss potential associate members, hopefully those with diverse perspectives (age, gender) at April's meeting.
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- Attempts to access UMass *Summit to Fight Fraud* digital workshop was problematic due to incomplete information in the regional newsletter. This error will be communicated to the editors of the newsletter.
- Question and discussion about the usefulness of the February 26 listening session seeking senior input for the Town plan helped to clarify the process. Williamsburg has never before created or implemented a comprehensive plan for its future. The Planning Board will wrap up the listening phase at a session on March 23rd and release a visioning statement later this summer. A volunteer committee will be organized. More funding will be needed for implementation.
- Food Map: Praise for including a food map providing local food resources for seniors in the latest *Living Well* newsletter was tempered by the not including the Williamsburg Food Pantry.

Motion to adjourn. (Seconded). The meeting was adjourned at 1:12 p.m.

The next meeting of the Williamsburg-Haydenville Council on Aging Board will be held at **12:15 on Weds. April 17, 2024 at the Town Offices in Haydenville, MA.**