

Council on Aging of Williamsburg and Haydenville

Minutes of the Meeting of January 19, 2022

Present: Dean Acheson, Daria D'Arienzo, Dianne Martin, Maureen O'Brien. Senior Center Director Melissa Wilson. Quorum was met.

The meeting was called to order at 12:20 p.m.

Minutes: Motion to accept Minutes of the Meeting of December 15, 2021 as amended. (Seconded).

Director's Report:

- Sherry Loomis is working with the Senior Center Director on the Formula Grant Annual Report.
- Seniors' Technology Needs Questionnaire distribution to the 62 units of Nashville Place in Williamsburg was delayed for one month. An article about the survey will appear in the upcoming newsletter. **Bring Your Own Device** one-to-one program is being considered.
- The January Coffee Hour was canceled because the Board of Health has reported a continued rise in local COVID-19 cases.
- Congregate Meals: The Senior Center staff is looking towards March to possibly roll out a hybrid meal program, with delivery on Tuesdays & Fridays. and congregate meals on Monday and Weds. pending COVID-19 guidance from the Board of Health.
- The Service Incentive Grant (SIG) will lose funding in June, 2022. SIG has funded the regional monthly newsletter *Living Well*, which reaches 2000 seniors, including 550 in Williamsburg and Haydenville, for six years. Jan Gibeau, Chair of the Northern Hilltown Consortium is searching for money to replace the \$40,000 annual cost. Discussion centered on the value of the newsletter's often vital information to inform seniors in rural areas who lack internet service or technology, or who respond best to hard copy communication. Suggestions were made for funding sources and advocacy.
- The Williamsburg Selectboard has allowed a work from home policy, but Senior Center Staff is working in the Town Hall building.

Old Business:

- **C.O.A. Bylaws Update:** After discussion, a motion was made (Seconded) and passed to change "The Williamsburg Haydenville C.O.A. Advisory Board Bylaws," revised in April, 2021, to "Williamsburg-Haydenville C.O.A. Advisory Board Guidelines." Maureen O'Brien will contact Nick Caccamo with further questions about whether it's necessary to make changes to the Williamsburg Town Bylaws to reflect C.O.A. Guideline substantive revisions.

- **Mentoring Program: Dean Acheson** shared lists of possible topics and essential process questions with Melissa Wilson to distribute. She will share materials with members for discussion. Concern was raised about modeling a program that is beyond the capability of a small town to implement. On the other hand, there is a consensus that seniors' technology needs as well as their ability to mentor others in technology use is a sensible beginning focus, especially as a survey from the Senior Center is already underway.
- The C.O.A. Board will advertise to fill a vacancy by word of mouth, on the Senior Center Facebook page and *Kind Things Burgy* Facebook page, by contacting Eleanor Warnock about the Town sign, and through a notice in the March newsletter.
- The Board thanks the Senior Center Director and Staff for hard work and exceptional kindness during the continuing challenge of COVID-19.

Next Meeting will be held on Weds. February 16, 2022 via Zoom.

Motion to adjourn. (Seconded). The meeting was adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

Topic: COA Board Meeting

Time: Feb 16, 2022 12:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada). 12:15 pm.

Join Zoom Meeting

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