

Council on Aging of Williamsburg and Haydenville

Minutes of the Meeting of February 16, 2022

Present: Dean Acheson, Daria D'Arienzo, Dianne Martin, Linda Gibbon, Barbara Bricker, Gerry Mann, Maureen O'Brien. Senior Center Director Melissa Wilson. Quorum was met.

The meeting was called to order at 12:16 p.m.

Minutes: Motion to accept Minutes of the Meeting of January 19, 2022 as amended. (Seconded).

Director's Report:

- Seniors' Technology Needs Questionnaire: The distribution of the Technology Needs survey to the 62 units of Nashville Place in Williamsburg in the meeting room is not currently possible. Alternative suggestions included posting the survey on each door, putting out a basket of sweets next to the surveys, and inserting it into the *Living Well* newsletter. Melissa Wilson is in contact with administrators to see if distributing the survey onto each door is an option.
- Bring Your Own Device collaboration with Meekins event is scheduled for Saturday, April 30. It's a one-to-one program open to the Town. The Senior Technology Needs Questionnaire will be distributed at the library. The library will publicize on its website and through a flyer. The Senior Center newsletter will contain an article about it. Barbara Bricker, Dianne and Dave Martin, Linda Gibbon and Maureen O'Brien have volunteered to help.
- The February Coffee Hour will be held at 10 a.m. on Thursday, February 24th, 2022.
- Congregate Meals: The Senior Center staff is looking towards March to reinstate a congregate meal one day a week. The choice of day is as yet uncertain.
 - The original purpose of congregate meals, funded by Highland Valley Elder Services, was to counter isolation and enhance social connections among seniors.
 - During COVID restrictions, programs across the Commonwealth switched to grab-and-go or delivered meals to seniors in the place of congregate meals.
 - There are no income guidelines for seniors who formerly came to congregate meals, but Meals on Wheels does have restrictions.
 - Although home delivery provides important social contact, continuing the COVID-era meal delivery will be complicated after congregate meals resume, so some income ineligible homebound seniors may be affected.

- 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. A call was made for 2-3 testimonials from affected C.O.A. boards and members to highlight the value of the newsletter. Maureen O'Brien offered to write a letter from the Williamsburg-Haydenville C.O.A. and send to Melissa to forward.
- Senior Center Call for Volunteers and ideas for participation in Williamsburg's 250th Anniversary Parade to be held on July 17th, 2022. Ideas offered included oldest seniors riding in a classic car, seniors marching as a cohort, and color coordination of dress. Linda Gibbon, who is on the 250th committee, and Gerry Mann will ask about finding a suitable car.

Old Business:

- **C.O.A. Bylaws Update:** Maureen O'Brien will contact Town Administrator Nick Caccamo again about moving forward with changes to the Williamsburg Town Bylaws that reflect substantive revisions to C.O.A. Guidelines & Procedures before Town Meeting in May, 2022.
- **Mentoring Program:** The Mentoring Program subcommittee met via Zoom on February 9th, 2022 and decided to support the Senior Center Technology Needs initiative as a beginning project.
- **New Associate Members:** The C.O.A. Board will advertise to fill vacancies by word of mouth, on the Senior Center Facebook page and *Kind Things Burgy Facebook* page, by contacting Eleanor Warnock about posting on the Town sign, and through a notice in the March *Living Well* newsletter.

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

Motion to adjourn. (Seconded). The meeting was adjourned at 1:09 p.m.