

Council on Aging of Williamsburg and Haydenville

Minutes of the Meeting of March 16, 2022

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

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

Minutes: Motion to accept Minutes of the Meeting of February 16, 2022 as edited. (Seconded).

Director's Report:

- Bring Your Own Device collaboration with Meekins event is scheduled for Saturday, April 30. Meekins Library is creating a flyer, posters will be put up, and the event will be publicized in *Living Well* and on the Senior Center Facebook page. Focus of the event will be on developing practical skills in the use of hand-held devices, especially for seniors.
- Digital Divide. The Senior Center is planning a coffee hour at Nash Hill Place to distribute a survey of seniors' capacity to address the digital divide. Meetings with the library will consider a partnership to create a monthly drop-in event to answer technology use questions and provide assistance.
- Congregate Meals: The Williamsburg Board of Health has lifted the indoor mask requirement. The Senior Center held its first congregate meal on Tuesday, March 15, 2022. Thirteen people attended.
 - Congregate meals will be offered once a week in March and expand to twice weekly in April.
 - Eventually, Congregate meals will be available four times a week with a delivery of meals on Friday. Monday meals will be cooked on site when there is staffing. Announcements will be made in the *Living Well* newsletter.
 - Challenges about delivering meals to seniors who cannot attend in person but are ineligible for Meals on Wheels are being addressed.
- The Farm Share Program will be serviced by Prospect Meadows Farms again this season. However, prices will rise from \$6.00 to \$8.50 weekly in 2022.
- The Service Incentive Grant (SIG) has funded the regional monthly newsletter *Living Well*, which reaches 2000 seniors, including 550 in Williamsburg and Haydenville, for six years. Melissa Wilson has received two testimonials from C.O.A. board members highlighting the value of the newsletter. She has also sent a letter to Senator Hinds and Representative Blais. The Northern Hilltown Consortium will be asking for a rollover of approximately \$30,000 in remaining SIG grant funds while new funding is being sought.
- Williamsburg's 250th Anniversary Parade to be held on July 17th, 2022. Senior Center members will be marching as a cohort.

Old Business:

- New Associate Members: The Board welcomed Pat Billingsley, longtime member and former Chair of the Williamsburg Libraries, as a guest at the March 16th meeting. She expressed an interest in joining the C.O.A. Board as an associate member. Letters of interest are addressed to Eleanor Warnock, and the Selectboard makes an appointment.
- C.O.A. Bylaws Update: Maureen O'Brien contacted Town Administrator Nick Caccamo about moving forward with changes to the Williamsburg Town Bylaws to reflect substantive revisions of C.O.A. Guidelines & Procedures (April 2021). Melissa has since heard from Nick that a warrant to make proposed changes has been prepared for posting before Town Meeting in June, 2022.
- Mentoring Program: The Mentoring Program subcommittee will not meet immediately, having chosen at present to support the Senior Center Technology Needs initiative.

New Business:

- Senior Center Facebook Page: Publicity to build membership for the new Senior Center Facebook Page includes contacting Eleanor Warnock, word of mouth, signs, announcement on *All Things Williamsburg* and *Kind Things Williamsburg* and an announcement in *Living Well*. All board members are encouraged to join.
- Daria requested a link; she will create a link from the Meekins Library website.
- Future Meeting Place: The Town has decided public meetings can continue on Zoom until the Fall. Discussion was held about possible spaces for future meetings. COVID-19 issues addressed were indoor masking, outside meeting in the tent, hybrid meetings, and general convenience.

Next Meeting will be held on Weds. April 20, 2022 via Zoom.

Motion to adjourn. (Seconded). The meeting was adjourned at 1:01 p.m.