**Council on Aging of Williamsburg and Haydenville**

**Minutes of the Meeting of May 18, 2022**

**Present:** Dean Acheson, Dianne Martin, Maureen O'Brien, Linda Gibbon, Pat Billingsley. Senior Center Director: Melissa Wilson. Staff: Sherry Loomis. Quorum was met.

The meeting was called to order at 12:18 p.m.

**Minutes:** Motion to accept Minutes of the Meeting (seconded) of March16, 2022 as edited

**Director's Report:**

* April 30 Tech Day. Fifteen very appreciative people took advantage of the technical services provided by volunteers at the event, which was held at Meekins Library. Their technical questions and needs were very specific, confirming that one-to-one sessions for seniors is the most valuable assistance. Melissa Wilson said that the Senior Center will be setting up individual sessions to be held at the Center by appointment once or twice a month, and may be collaborating with the library as well in the future.
* Williamsburg's 250th Anniversary Parade is to be held on July 17th, 2022. Senior Center members will be either marching the 2.1-mile route from Haydenville to Williamsburg in a (all-ages welcome) cohort or riding in a trolley bus. The trolleybus will take people back to their cars in Haydenville.
* Elder Law Program: an attorney from Bacon Wilson and the Massachusetts Bar Association will hold a free information session covering elder law topics on June 16, 2022. Registration is required. Flyers will be posted at Meekins Library and the local post offices.
* An outdoor Multigenerational Event is being planned for some weekend in August 2022 at the Senior Center. The Grange's Shannon Wade and Faith Bisbee of the Girl Scouts have been notified.
* Exploration of a Tax Assistance Program: The CDC's program to assist seniors with tax preparation was curtailed because of COVID. Although AARP offers a program online, the Senior Center is looking into providing in-person services. A Highland Valley survey shows that many seniors struggle
* to live on a fixed income, and a tax circuit breaker can afford eligible seniors $1100 refund. Volunteer tax preparers will be sought in the August and September newsletters.
* At the Williamsburg-Haydenville Senior Center: The outdoor tent is up. SHINE, congregate meals, Vets, foot care, dance and exercise programs continue. The Farm Share Program will be serviced by Prospect Meadows Farms again this season beginning in mid to late June. However, prices will rise from $6.00 to $8.50 weekly in 2022. There are still openings.
* 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. The Northern Hilltown Consortium has been granted a rollover of approximately $30,000 in remaining SIG grant funds to use for the newsletter in the upcoming fiscal year. Discussion of future possibilities followed. This included searching for new sources of funding, or promoting exclusive receipt of a digital newsletter. Only 35 seniors out of 500 have requested digital delivery to date. More publicity about the digital option will appear in the upcoming *Living Well*.

**Old Business:**

* Board Membership: Dianne Martin, Daria D'Arienzo, Maureen O'Brien, Gerald Mann, and Linda Gibbon have agreed to renew C.O.A. Board membership. Dean Acheson will retire from the board after the June 2022 meeting, leaving one position open. Pat Billingsley will continue as an Associate Member.
* Thanks were offered to Barbara Bricker, who has retired from the board, for her efforts, especially her work on updating the bylaws. Maureen O'Brien sent her a thank you note from the C.O.A.

**The June meeting** **will be held on Weds. June 15, 2022 via *Zoom***.

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