

## Council on Aging of Williamsburg and Haydenville

### Minutes of the Meeting of January 18, 2023

**Present:** Pat Billingsley, Mary Bisbee, Dianne Martin, Maureen O'Brien. Director Melissa Wilson. Guest: Peg Whelan. Quorum was met.

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

**Minutes:** Motion to accept Minutes of the Meeting of December 21, 2022 as edited. (Seconded).

#### **Director's Report:**

- The Senior Center budget is due in February. The Director is considering proposing raises in order to maintain the quality of staff.

The Senior Center Facebook account is attracting views. The Board asked if the Facebook page could be used to further publicize the technology survey and provide a link to the online version. Its purpose, however, in the Director's view, is primarily social connections. The Town website should be relied on for publicizing important information.

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- **Grants:**
  - Highland Valley Elder Services (HVES) grants are awarded in a 2-year cycle. The Williamsburg C.O.A. will put in a bid in February.
  - SIG Grant: The surveys regarding digital needs of seniors (60+) in the seven hilltowns of the Northern Hilltowns Consortium are being returned. Analysis will follow.
- **Programs & Events**
  - April 26th: The Senior Center will hold an open house for the refurbished Senior Community Room; the event includes volunteer recognition.
  - An ice cream social is planned for July.
  - August plans include a multigenerational event featuring therapy dogs.
  - September is the target for a Triad Health presentation.

#### **Old Business:**

Discussion continued about providing a community screening of the recommended film, *Gen Silent*.

- Melissa Wilson introduced Peg Whelan, a member of the LGBTQ community. Peg has presented tech workshops for C.O.A. members, and has been hired by

the Northern Hilltown Consortium to assist with the recent seniors' tech needs survey.

- Background of the 2007 film was summarized; it's considered a core piece of LGBTQ information. Even today it's difficult in the Valley to find appropriate health care or homecare services for LGBTQ members.
- Peg suggested getting triangle "safe space" stickers for Senior Center office door.
- Cost of showing the film is over \$3000. Possible funding sources suggested included grants, partial funding from film company, support from Meekins, or from Friends of Meekins, contacting, CDH/Mass General.
- Pat Billingsley will follow up on question of licensing in *Kanopy*.
- Dianne Martin will check the cultural council calendar for application grant deadlines.
- Northern Hilltown Consortium (seven towns) has been approached to be involved with this event. Consequently, the venue should be local.
- Facilitator from the LGBTQ community is necessary for fullest interaction; Peg will assist in finding a co-facilitator
- Timing possibilities are June or October. There are many factors involved with this event and some could impact the timing.
- Publicity should include an article in *Living Well*.

Possible Afternoon Social Activities: All ideas & practical considerations are being processed. Discussion to continue at the February meeting.

**Motion to adjourn.** (Seconded). The meeting was adjourned at 1:25 p.m.

**The next meeting** of the Williamsburg-Haydenville Council on Aging Board will be held at **12:15 on Weds. February 15, 2023 at the Town Offices in Haydenville, MA.**