

## Council on Aging of Williamsburg and Haydenville

### Minutes of the Meeting of June 21, 2023

**Present:** Mary Bisbee, Toni Boughton, Daria D'Arienzo, Gerry Mann, Dianne Martin, Maureen O'Brien. Director Melissa Wilson. Quorum was met.

The meeting was called to order at 12:24 p.m.

**Minutes:** Motion to accept the Minutes of the Meeting of May 17, 2023. (Seconded).

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

- **Grants:**
  - Highland Valley Elder Services (HVES) grant has been submitted. Decisions will be announced in September.
  - The PVTA grant for medical rides renews automatically.
  - Reminder to new members to take the required Executive Office of Elder Affairs (EOEA) LGBTQ online training. Melissa Wilson will provide a link.
  - Service Incentive Grant (SIG) funding to support the printed regional newsletter, *Living Well*, is fluid. The Senior Center may not piggyback mailings onto Town mailings. However, the newsletter is to be mailed in August.
- **Outreach:** The Senior Center is ramping up to grow the numbers of seniors who attend congregate meals. In-House prepared meals on Monday are popular, so may be offered on Thursdays as well. More preparation help will be needed to accomplish this goal.
- **Programs & Events**
  - An ice cream social is planned for Friday, July 7 at 1 p.m.
  - A multigenerational event featuring therapy dogs is planned for Friday, August 11 at 10 a.m. followed by lunch. Joy requests taking and sharing photos of events.
  - September is the target for a Triad Health presentation.
  - There will be a flu clinic in October.

#### **Old Business:**

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

- Saturday October 21 at 2p.m. is the time and date of the movie presentation.
- Melissa Wilson will coordinate with Director Bev Bullock at Meekins Library .
- The C.O.A. Board will plan publicity for the event at the July meeting. Suggestion include word of mouth, contacting Jan Gibeau, Chair of the Northern Hilltowns Consortium (NHC), for regional publicity ideas, placing a notice in the September newsletter, announcement at the health fair in September, and posters and flyers.

**New Business:**

- Diversity Workshop Report:
  - Melissa Wilson and Dianne Martin attended a training in Pittsfield about adding more Diversity to the C.O.A. Board.
  - Because the demographics of Williamsburg is currently 97% Caucasian, Senior Center's focus might necessarily be age and gender.
  - Comments broadened to the need for volunteers on all town boards.
  - Suggestions: a volunteer fair; putting notices in the monthly newsletter and on the Senior Center Facebook page; inviting Men's Group members to join a board meeting (with refreshments).
  - Daria D'Arienzo reported an offer from a young person to engage seniors with games like scrabble and chess.
- Mary Bisbee reported that her Better Bones and Balance classes are going well.

**Motion to adjourn.** (Seconded). The meeting was adjourned at 1:13 p.m.

**The next meeting** of the Williamsburg-Haydenville Council on Aging Board will be held at **12:15 on Weds. July 19, 2023 at the Town Offices in Haydenville, MA.**