**Council on Aging of Williamsburg and Haydenville**

**Minutes of the Meeting of May 17, 2023**

**Present:** Pat Billingsley, Mary Bisbee, Daria D'Arienzo, Maureen O'Brien. Director Melissa Wilson. Staff Member Joy Moore; Guest Toni Boughton. Quorum was met.

The meeting was called to order at 12:24 p.m. Daria D'Arienzo chaired the meeting.

**Minutes:** Motion to accept Minutes of the Meeting of April 19, 2023. (Seconded).

**Director's Report:**

* **Grants:**
* Highland Valley Elder Services (HVES) grant has been submitted.
* The PVTA grant renews automatically.
* The Northern Hilltowns Consortium is applying for a long-term grant for senior needs regarding technology.
* Service Incentive Grant**.** The earmark to fund the regional newsletter, *Living Well,* failed, but the situation is fluid. Possibilities and suggestions include
* Sherry could format a Williamsburg in-house newsletter
* The Senior Center might **p**iggy back mailings onto Town mailings
* The last newsletter to be mailed will be July-August
* The collective view is that the mailed newsletter is welcomed and valuable. The editors, staff and contributors should be thanked because of its consistent quality and usefulness. Maureen will work with Melissa to compose a letter for the July-August edition.
* Ask recipients for an opt in to get it mailed; this will provide clearer numbers
* Send out most online and leave printed copies at Meekins and the Senior Center.
* Consider a newsletter as a new project for the C.O.A. Board: Could we absorb a small mailing? What issues surround offering a subscription? What would be the cost of bulk mailing for a nonprofit? Should there be an opt -in for mailed copies because of need: for the homebound or those without Internet access, etc.?
* **Programs & Events**
* The April 26th event was successful thanks to Staff efforts and to volunteers.
  + 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.
  + Tech help at Meekins is scheduled for the first Tuesday in June (June 6).

**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 will coordinate with Meekins concerning equipment necessities.
* The C.O.A. Board will plan publicity for the event at the June 21 meeting

New Members:

* Toni Boughton has offered to become an associate member of the Williamsburg C.O.A. Board. The Selectboard appoints members, so her request should be made to Eleanor Warnock, their Administrative Assistant.
* Gerry Mann will continue as an associate member, and will attempt to recruit new members at the Senior Men's gathering.

**Other Business**: The Finance Committee is meeting next Weds. The Board supports the Director's request for raises for staff members, praising their hard work for the Senior Center.

**Motion to adjourn**. (Seconded). The meeting was adjourned at 12:58 p.m.

**The next meeting** of the Williamsburg-Haydenville Council on Aging Boardwill beheld at **12:15 on Weds. June 21, 2023 at the Town Offices in Haydenville, MA.**