**Council on Aging of Williamsburg and Haydenville**

**Minutes of the Meeting of November 16, 2022**

**Present:** Pat Billingsley, Mary Bisbee, Daria D'Arienzo, Linda Gibbon, Dianne Martin, Maureen O'Brien; Director, Melissa Wilson; Staff, Joy Moore. Quorum was met.

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

**Minutes:** Motion to accept Minutes of the Meeting of October 19, 2022. (Seconded).

**Director's Report:**

* **Introduction:** Melissa Wilson introduced Joy Moore, saying the Senior Center is very lucky to have her on board. Joy, whose family is from Williamsburg, praised the volume of activity on the Senior Center's monthly calendar.
* **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.
* **PVTA’s grant** continues to fund the medical rides**.**
* **The Massachusetts Formula Grant** has been approved in the state budget.
* The Senior Center has focused on requests for funding for a wall oven and other equipment for the community room f**rom the American Rescue Plan ( ARPA)** monies alloted to the Town of Williamsburg,
* **The SIGrant to the Hilltowns Consortium** was funded for another year to fund the mailed hard copy of *Living Well*. In addition, Meg Whelan worked on the survey created regarding digital needs of seniors in seven hilltowns. The expanded survey will be mailed to 2500 households. Suggestions to improve the rate of return include:
  + Including a self-addressed envelope in each survey packet.
  + Asking seniors who attend lunch venues if they need help filling out the survey on site.
  + Making randomized calls to survey recipients
  + Implementing the response initiative in phases: direct mailing, identifying non-responses, making calls. This is time consuming, but may be most effective.
* The Senior Center continues to be busy:
  + Ride requests numbers are up.
  + Mary Bisbee has added another Healthy Bones and Balance class, to be held Monday at 1p.m. in addition to the current Thursday at 9:30 a.m. class.
  + Pen Pal Program. Please let Director or Sherry know if you are interested in exchanging letters with 6th graders at Anne T. Dunphy School. Currently there are 26 students and 17 seniors enrolled.

* + The Monday, December 12, 2022 Program with Roger Tincknell , Hampshire #1 Representative Lindsay Sabadosa and Senator-elect Paul Mark needs volunteers. Dianne Martin and Pat Billingsley signed up. The communal lunch signup is closed, but there is still room for people who want to enjoy the entertainment, as it will be held in the auditorium.
  + Meekins Library's strategic plan mentioned collaboration with the C.O.A. and doing outreach to seniors in need of help with technology.

**Old Business:** Discussion continued about providing a community screening of a recommended film *Gen Silent*. Suggestions:

* A screening & discussion should include an advocate from the LGBTQ community
* The perspective of the screening and discussion should be broadened to include other aspects of seniors feeling safe as they prepare for moving into communal settings.
* Screening should be pushed to the fall so that the C.O.A. does not lose focus on the Digital Divide initiative already underway.
* Each board member might ask a friend who is a member of the LGBTQ community to view the film and weigh in on it. [https://pluto.tv/en/search/details/movies/gensilent-2011-1-1](https://pluto.tv/en/search/details/movies/gensilent-2011-1-1" \t "_blank)

**New Business:**

* Discussion of possible afternoon social activities, including discussions and lectures (local historical themes, memoir writing, genealogy, gardening for example) is tabled (& seconded) until Mary Bisbee can attend.
* Election of Officers: Dianne Martin was nominated (& seconded) for Chair and Maureen O'Brien for Secretary. Each member accepted the nomination. Each was voted into office until September, 2023.
* CORI update: Melissa will pursue information regarding CORI updates for all members and contact those who need to re-apply after two years.

**The next meeting of the Williamsburg-Haydenville Council on Aging Board will be held at 12:15 on Weds. December 21 at the Town Offices in Haydenville, MA.**

**Motion to adjourn**. (Seconded). The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 p.m.