

BELCHERTOWN COUNCIL ON AGING

Minutes for meeting on January 23, 2020

Members

Robert Farrington
Maura Guzik
Jim Dowling
Diane Plant
Colleen Duro-Shea
John Belding

Guests

Jessica Langlois
Jim Bell, Board Member of WMEC
Gail Gramarossa, Liaison

Absent

Donna Bozoglos

Bob Farrington called the meeting to order at 5:32 PM.

Minutes: A motion was made to accept the minutes of the December 19, 2019 by Diane, and seconded by Colleen. Motion passed; Yes – 6, No - 0.

Directors Report

Jessica reported the following to the Council:

Staff: Jack Robinson was hired as a driver for the Medical Transportation program. He also works at a group housing home on the weekends. Paperwork is being filled out and he will start shortly.

Program: Jessica reviewed participation numbers in the nutrition, outreach, transportation, educational and recreation programs. Numbers declined from November as a result of three snow days during December. The Hampshire County Sheriff's Office donated fleece blankets that were handed out to those who came in for fuel assistance applications. The blankets were donated by Berkshire Blanket. The yoga instructor has been out for six months so Katy is researching other options for instructors.

Other:

- Law Clinic with Atty. Geoffrey Farrington is scheduled for May 29, from 9AM-12 Noon. All individuals will have a 15 minute session each.
- New Postcard for newsletter mailing has been prepared to either get the newsletter free on-line or pay \$5 by mail.
- A 3x2, double sided sign has been ordered that cost \$55.86. It was ordered through MassCor and the DPW will install it.
- The UMASS RN student clinical rotation at the Center is cancelled as a result of the Supervisor leaving. Colleen volunteered as a nurse so Jessica will check into it.
- Conflict of Interest Training for the Board members needs to be completed by the end of February. Complete the sign off sheet and the assessment from the online course @mass.gov. Type in the word Ethics in the search bar to start the course.

Upcoming Events:

2/5 – 4/15/2020 – AARP Taxes; Jessica is unsure of the number of slots.

2/21 – Beach Party

BSCCA Update: Colleen reported that over \$10,000 has been raised for the second van. The group has raised money from the 20/20 raffle, Holiday Fair and Bell & Hudson contributed \$1,000 toward the purchasing of the van.

Comments from the Liaison – Gail reported the Selectmen are in the midst of preparing the town budget. She asked Jessica to think about any capital needs the Center might have. A deadline of 2/26/2020 has been set for articles to be voted on. Gail recommended a committee be established to research what other towns are doing about a tax work-off program for Seniors, i.e. eligibility requirements, limits for number of slots, etc. The committee could then present the information at a Select Board and Finance meeting which they would need to respond to. Maybe not next town meeting, but the one after this FY ends. Gail also mentioned that the Pioneer Valley Planning Committee might be able to write a grant to Tufts Funds about starting a dementia friendly community program in Belchertown. She will keep the COA up to date on what she finds out. Finally, she mentioned the COA should bring to the Select Board a nomination for the BSCCA to be the Volunteer of the Year because of all they do for the Town Senior Center.

New Business: Jessica mentioned the 2020 census is out and wanted to highlight the federal census and have everyone submit a response. She handed out the budget with the Center's request for FYE 2021. Increases in some of the line items were offset by a \$3,000 decrease in the vehicle expense. Diane motioned to accept the budget and Maura seconded the motion. Motion passed Yes-6, No-0. Jim asked about a couple of issues as follows: getting an ear wax removal program in place which Jessica researched and could not find one; re-implement the Supportive Day program which Jessica responded that the formula grant doesn't cover the cost; request increase the heat in the dining room due to complaints from the Bingo group, Jessica explained that due to the MOW drivers returning to the Center need to open doors to bring materials back to the kitchen. Jessica was able to relocate them to the game room, however the group moved back to the dining room.

Bob requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Diane made a motion which was seconded by Colleen. Motion passed Yes-6, No-0. Meeting adjourned at 6:35.

Respectfully Submitted,
Maura Guzik
Secretary of Belchertown COA