

BELCHERTOWN COUNCIL ON AGING

Minutes November 21, 2019

Members

Maura Guzik
Colleen DuroShea
Bob Farrington
Donna Bozoglos
Diane Plante
Jim Dowling
John Belding

Guests

Jessica Langlois, ED
Jo Fitzgerald, WMEC Advisor

Absent

Gail Gramarossa, Liaison

Bob Farrington called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

Minutes:

The October minutes were reviewed and Diane motioned to accept the minutes which was seconded by Donna. Motion passed (Yes-7, No-0)

Directors Report:

Jessica reported the following to the Council:

Staff: The most recent hire for the Meals on Wheels position is unable to remain, therefore Jessica will be interviewing candidates again. There is also a job posting for a Medical Transportation Program driver.

Programs: Jessica reviewed participation in the nutrition, outreach, transportation and recreation/educational programs during the month of October. Jessica provided a comparison on the report for transportation showing last year's participation vs year to date results which continues to increase. Sewing is a new recreation activity with the majority of participants from South Hadley as the town is in the process of building a new Center. The Yoga instructor is still sick and is not expected to return until January. The Formula Grant for FY20 has been approved for \$28,920. The most significant use of the funds will go toward the Senior Center Aide's wages totaling \$15,700. Jessica also reported the Center is reinstating a \$1 delivery charge for Brown Bag deliveries which will start in January. She reminded the Board that if Belchertown schools are closed or delayed the Center will be closed or delayed. If the Center is delayed, lunch and HDM's are served at regular time and all programming before 12pm is canceled. Jessica spoke with the Amherst Senior Center Staff which offers Ear Wax Removal as a Clinic. This service is available to Belchertown Seniors in Amherst and it would also be available with their primary care doctor or at Med Express. A suggestion box has been installed on a wall which will be opened, read and responded to every Friday.

Upcoming Events: 12/10-Fall Prevention & Home Safety Awareness; 12/11-Holiday Party w/Donna Lee; 12/17-Chalk Art; 12/23-Bereavement Group led by Cooley Dickinson

Diane made a motion to accept the Executive Directors Report, Donna seconded. Motion passed Yes-7, No-0)

Next Meeting Thursday, December 19th @ 5:30

BSCCA Update: Colleen reported they raised \$7,000 from the Holiday Bizarre. She mentioned there are more handmade items for sale on display in the hallway.

Committee Reports:

No updates at this time.

Liaison Report: N/A

New Business: Bob opened a discussion for Jessica and Members of the Advisory to share ideas of a wish list to increase programs at the Center. Following were some ideas that were discussed:

- Tax work off program for Seniors – At the last meeting Gail, the Liaison, supported the idea.
- Ear Wax Removal Program
- Hearing Care/Evaluations
- 15 minute legal clinic
- Review of Prescription Plans
- Bereavement Support
- Ballroom Dancing
- Support for Arthritis
- Book Club
- Group to discuss Hot Topics that are not political
- Memory Café
- Haircuts for Woman

Diane motioned and Maura seconded to adjourn the meeting. The meeting ended at 6:23 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Maura Guzik
Secretary of Belchertown COA