



TOWN OF SHREWSBURY

Council on Aging

Shrewsbury Senior Center

98 Maple Avenue, Shrewsbury, Massachusetts 01545-5398

Shrewsbury Council on Aging

Shrewsbury Council on Aging Board Meeting

February 8, 2023

Minutes

COA Board Present: Jean Campaniello, Betsy Zuegg, Lori Jones, Meenu Sharma, Arun Subramoniam, and Judy Goodstein, Alex Roman

COA Staff Present: Hollie Lucht, Renee D'Argento

Guest Present: Maria Smith- President, Friends of the Shrewsbury Senior Center

The meeting was recorded by Krista Fogg of SMC

1. Call to Order-The meeting was called to order at 9:30 am

2. Review and Act to Accept Dec. 28, 2022 and Jan. 11 2023 Board meeting minutes;

-Amendments to correct the spelling of Judy Goodstein's name from Goldstein to Goodstein in both sets of minutes,

-**Re:** Dec. 28, 2022 Minutes:

Discussed the tables to be replaced in section 2.f and requested to remove either the word look or the word explore in section 2.m

Motion to accept Dec. 28, 2022 Minutes as amended-**Passed**

-**Re:** Jan. 11, 2023 Minutes

Discussed of the meaning of term "superintendent help" to mean custodial services in section

3 **Motion** to accept Jan. 11, 2023 Minutes as amended-**Passed**

3. Welcome Friends Representative- Maria Smith

Maria returned to again discuss and request collaborative help with the cost of The Spirit of Shrewsbury Tea provided in the Fall on the day of the parade; particularly with the transportation of the seniors to the event and for the custodial services needed for the event. The program has grown and the cost to run the program has increased.

A discussion included how roles of the Council on Aging and the Friends of the Senior Center are defined according to the Mass Council on Aging Handbook for Friends of Councils on Aging; August 2015 document particularly the section under Public Resources. Which states that "Friends groups are not entitled to make use of the COA's resources, which are publicly funded."

Due to the labor needed by the Senior Center to function during the week, the limitations on number of hours to work by some staff, and the request by staff to be paid overtime, the COA is not at this time able to provide staff and transportation costs for the Friends events.

At our last Board meeting it was requested that The Friends could share their finances and expenses to help the COA better understand how we can collaborate. Our Board decided that this was not necessary.

A request was made of the Friends to pay for the Memory café entertainment.

4. Reviewed the Financial Reports

Multiple Year to Date budget report formats were reviewed and evaluated to decide on which formats the Board would like to receive the financial reports.

Discussion ensued about the codes listed on the reports and what these codes mean.

Discussion ensued about the category "services not classified" includes such services as a piano tuner, or stove repair, and if the money is not used, it is returned to the town.

Under advertisement we pay to mail the newsletter, but the publisher keeps the money collected from the newsletter adds, and does not charge us for the publishing of the Newsletter.

Hollie makes the Financials available to the Board on our Google Docs account.

It was requested to have the Financials available during our meetings on a screen with control by computer for our director Hollie to present and highlight the numbers under discussion. Hollie plans to research how to do this.

5. Directors Report

1. Outreach- Renee D'Argento

-Fuel Assistance requests have exceeded 60 applications and Share the Warmth requests have exceeded 30 applications. There is a backlog. If seniors run out of oil, they can reach Renee during the Sr. Center business hours or they can contact the police dispatch after senior center hours for emergency oil distribution. -Pet Heath Fair: Hopefully in the Spring, tentative date May 18th, where seniors will be able to get shots and checkups for their pets in addition to learning of other pet services.

-Respite Program for Caregivers and Seniors: has begun and will run through June. If successful, we may try to fund the program here or at neighboring center sites in the future. We will table this discussion until June. -Seven Hills programs: Continuing with presentations similar to the programs on Fraud and Scam avoidance, and the Senior Fraud hotline, the Worcester Registry of Deeds and Probate Court regarding Wills and Trusts will present on April 24, 2023.

2. Meenu Sharma-Outreach-

-Discussion ensued regarding the methods of outreach to seniors in our community and how to reach even more seniors. The discussion weighed the methods of outreach and which is wanted and helpful to the seniors and which methods may be intrusive and not wanted by the seniors. The direct and indirect methods included, Newsletters (direct mailings, email and multiple copies left in key locations like grocery stores, etc.), social media, outreach to local senior communities and senior facilities. According to the recent survey of seniors, many do not want the newsletter mailed to their home and have other ways to get their information.

3. Activities Committee:

Discussion about the creation of an Activities Committee to help explore the many possible activities we could implement for the Seniors. The possibility to work with the Friends of the Senior Center would provide collaboration. Hollie offered her folder collection of activity ideas to help the committee get started. **Motion** to create the Committee **passed**.

Betsy and Arun agreed to be on the committee with other board members able to join in as their interest and time permitted.

-Community Garden- Hollie is accepting design quotes from at least three landscapers for the new community garden.

4. Valentines/St. Patrick lunch:

The Valentines lunch will be held including a buffet lasagna at a cost of about \$2000.

Since the cost of the Valentines lunch is so high, the St Patrick's day meal will be skipped this year. We may celebrate these meals in alternating years.

5. December Congregate Meals Update

Congregate meals increased by 50% in Dec. Many attendees stayed longer to attend a program either before the meal or after the meal. And many sat in the lobby to socialize.

6. Annual Report- Provided to the Board

7. FY23 Formula Grant Expenditure Ideas- Tabled to the Activities Committee

8. Gift Fund- Tabled

New Business/ Old Business-

-Discussion on whether the Policy document would be placed on the website. Hollie said she had help from the Town to be able to place the document on the website and was successful doing so. It is not easy to find on the website.

Adjourn: Motion to Adjourn- Passed 11:00am

Respectfully submitted by:

Lori Jones

Secretary- Shrewsbury Council on Aging

