



TOWN OF SHREWSBURY
Council on Aging
Shrewsbury Senior Center
98 Maple Avenue, Shrewsbury, Massachusetts 01545-5398

Shrewsbury Council on Aging Meeting
September 14, 2022

Minutes

COA Board present: Jean Campaniello, Betsy Zuegg, Lori Jones, Alen Roman, Meenu Sharma, Arun Subramoniam. Not present: Judy Goodstein

COA Staff present: Hollie Lucht, Christine Moriarty, Renee D'Argento

The meeting was recorded by Krista Fogg of SMC

1. The meeting was called to order at 9:35am. New COA Board members were introduced:
 - a. Welcome to Meenu Sharma and Arun Subramoniam!
2. Review and vote to accept August 2022 minutes. Unanimous.
3. Welcome Friends Representative Gerry Tongel
 - a. Spirit of Shrewsbury is Sept. 24 and 25
 - b. Friends to provide a luncheon on Sunday, Sept. 25 for all Shrewsbury senior citizens 60 years and older.
 - c. Request by Friends to provide COA vans for transportation from Francis Gardens and the Towers for the Spirit of Shrewsbury. Discussion. The transportation for the Spirit of Shrewsbury events is funded by the Spirit of Shrewsbury, not by the COA . Providing additional COA van transportation has not been budgeted, and the request came too late to amend the current budget. Discussion tabled.
4. Review and Act on Financials
 - a. Question about Gift Fund: Heart to Home meals are frozen meals for the food pantry. This is a quarterly or semiannual expense. Small deposits to the Gift Fund are from luncheon ticket sales and for the \$2 amount charged for jewelry.
 - b. The Formula Grant is based on the fiscal year. The amount is estimated. The actual deposit comes in March.
 - c. Motion to accept; unanimous.
5. Director's Report
 - a. Outreach Update- Renee D'Argento
 - i. Survey results are being distributed.
 - ii. Health Fair was very successful. Visitors checked in at the kiosk, vendors made donations of \$50 or gift cards that were used as raffles. *Congratulations to Renee for a job well done!!!*
 - b. Programs/Events
 - i. Update on Policy Subcommittee: Work continues on roles and responsibilities of COA Board members. Clarification of use of Gift Fund next on the agenda. Town Manager will review document prior to distribution to the COA Board.
 - ii. SSC/COA Volunteering: discussion. Suggestion to have a web page with volunteer opportunities listed. Clarified that this already exists. There is very little response to the online portal. Face to face works best. Follow up is done

- frequently. Volunteer positions are posted in the Newsletter regularly. COA Board is urged to explore avenues to recruit volunteers among our friends.
- iii. 22nd Anniversary Senior Center Celebration 9/13 and THINK AHEAD 9/22: The 22nd Anniversary Celebration was a great success! Meals provided by Peppercorns Restaurant in Worcester. Special recognition to Louise Russell, long-term COA Board member, now retired. Assabet Valley Mastersingers performed. COA volunteers did an outstanding job. *Congratulations to all of those who made this a wonderful event!!!* THINK AHEAD event 9/22 6-9pm. This event is for anyone approaching this new chapter of life. The goal is to remove the stereotype of aging. Transportation will be provided. AARP, SHINE and ESWA will present. Shrewsbury Nursing Home will provide desserts. Event will be videotaped and re-run in October at the Senior Center. Suggestion to use WhatsApp to create senior groups...to be explored.
 - iv. Transportation Update: discussion. All riders and drivers now wear masks. The account is within its budget. Requests for trips are increasing.
 - v. MCOA Fall Conference: No one from Shrewsbury COA is able to attend.
 - vi. Joy For All Companion Pets: the purpose is to provide companionship, comfort to homebound, lonely, etc. Overwhelmingly positive response from senior citizens. Price is \$125 for cats and \$130-140 for dogs. Discussion: request to purchase 20 dogs and 20 cats with funds from the Formula Grant. The intention is to share the pets with Meals on Wheels clients, Memory Café participants, etc. The intent is to use these as an outreach tool, not as a gift. Discussion. Suggestion to start with a lesser number of pets for Memory Café participants and Meals on Wheels recipients. Discussion to continue in November when more information has been received.
- c. New business/Old business
- i. Question about survey response- how many wanted to have newsletter sent online? Many want it via mail. Comments will be reviewed.
 - ii. Question about event statistics- what are trends in the data?
 - iii. Question- can fitness classes be televised? Yes, some are on the public access channel or YouTube.
 - iv. Old Business: Yahoo Program update- one of the local schools is interested. Discussion ongoing. Spring program was under enrolled.
- d. Meeting adjourned 11:03am