

MINUTES OF THE SOUTH HADLEY COUNCIL ON AGING MEETING
Monday, March 14th, 2016

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Gail Bielizna-Pafford at 4:00 p.m.

Present: Sheila Adams, Mary Billion, Gail Bielizna-Pafford, Eileen Burke, Judith Fortier, Sarah Gmeiner, Donald Lever, William Schenker.

Excused: Doris Bibeau and Carlene Hamlin

Director Joanne Trybus present.

MEETING MINUTES: Chairperson Gail Bielizna-Pafford requested “special” be added to the minutes of the February 29th meeting. A motion was made to accept the minutes of the February 8th, 2016 and February 29th, 2016 meetings by Mary Billion, seconded by Sheila Adams and unanimously approved by the Board.

BILLS PAYABLE: A motion to approve the bills was made by Donald Lever, seconded by Judith Fortier and unanimously approved by the Board.

THE DIRECTOR’S REPORT: Director Joanne Trybus had nothing extra to add to her submitted report.

STANDING COMMITTEES:

Finance/Planning Committee – No meeting

Nominating Committee – No meeting

Policy Committee – Needs to meet before next meeting

Needs Assessment Committee – Needs to meet before next meeting

WESTMASS ELDERCARE LIAISON:

Ken Ellis noted there have been no major changes since his last report. Most people are back in their apartments after the water issues at Hubert place. In May, William Schenker will be appointed to the board at Hubert place.

OLD BUSINESS:

- A. New Senior Center Needs Committee Report – Chairperson Gail Bielizna-Pafford shared a draft letter asking the South Hadley Board of Selectboard for \$40,000 for a feasibility study for a new Senior Center. She would submit the letter to the Selectboard at the March 22nd meeting, held at the Senior Center. A

motion to present the letter was made by William Schenker, seconded by Eileen Burke and unanimously approved by the Board.

- B. Stove Project Update – The stove project is completed. Joanne is still waiting for the total cost as not all final invoices have been submitted. The first meal cooked on the new equipment was Friday, March 11th.
- C. Volunteer Appreciation April 22nd Update – The dinner begins at 5:30 p.m. The event will be at the Senior Center. Summit View in Holyoke will be catering the event, thanks to the Friends group.
- D. “My Senior Center” – The broken hand held scanner was replaced. Staff is working out the kinks, but things are going well. The system is easy to work with and much easier to pull reports.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Diabetic Support Group – The Senior Center had partnered with Mercy Medical for over 10 years. This is an important group at the Center and has provided current and useful information and support. There was always a fee for their services. The fee increases left the fate of the group uncertain. The Center will end its partnership with Mercy and move forward with Holyoke Hospital, who will provide the sessions for free.
- B. “Those items not reasonably anticipated by the Chair, 48 hours in advance.”
 - a) Three volunteers are needed to give tours at 6:15 p.m. on March 22nd, before the 7:00 p.m. Selectboard meeting. Joanne Trybus, Gail Bielizna-Pafford and Don Lever will give the tours.
 - b) William Schenker shared that the water department is willing to give a four acre plot of land for the sole purpose of building a new Senior Center. The board thanked William Schenker for his homework and advocacy and is excited about the proposition.
 - c) A board training will be held at the Northampton Senior Center April 14th. All members are encouraged to attend the training.
 - d) Any board member who has completed their three year term and wants to continue for another term must reapply online. Appointments will be made in June at a Selectboard meeting.

A motion to adjourn was made at 5:15 p.m. by Mary Billion, seconded by Sheila Adams, and unanimously approved by the Board.

The next meeting is April 11th, 2016 at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Sarah Gmeiner, Secretary.