

MINUTES OF THE SOUTH HADLEY COUNCIL ON AGING MEETING  
Monday, October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2016

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Mary Billion at 4:00 p.m.

Present: Sheila Adams, Mary Billion, Eileen Burke, Laurie Casolari, Judith Fortier, Sarah Gmeiner, Donald Lever, William Schenker and WMEC Liaison Ken Ellis.

Excused: Carlene Hamlin, Grace Kelly and Richard Matteson.

Director Leslie Hennessey present.

Visitors: Bruce Forcier

MEETING MINUTES: In the first line of the Monday, September 19<sup>th</sup> minutes “Bill” will be changed to “Billion” A motion was made to accept the amended minutes of the July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016 meeting by Mary Billion, seconded by Donald Lever and unanimously approved by the Board.

BILLS PAYABLE: The Comcast fee may move to the budget, but right now it is coming out of a gift account.

THE DIRECTOR’S REPORT:

- A. New Senior Center Update – Director Leslie Hennessey was asked by the Town Administrator, Mike Sullivan, to begin talking to professional colleagues to find out the important aspects of the building process, what groups/ committees were formed and how they have navigated the process. Leslie reported the next step is to find potential properties and have the consultant look at the potential possibilities. Board members discussed multiple ideas for potential properties.  
A board member asked if the New Senior Center would house just the Senior Center. Leslie stated that as far as she knew, the idea was for the Senior Center to be the single occupants.  
Guest Bruce Forcier noted that \$28,000 out of the \$40,000 designated at Town Meeting will be dedicated for the study of the new Senior Center. The other \$12,000 is for the other building studies.  
A Board member suggested the Senior Center Building Committee, when formed, looks into steel buildings to keep costs reasonable.
- B. Board Involvement at COA events – Leslie encouraged all Board members to be active in events at the Center. She asked for volunteers to judge the Halloween

costume contest and to be ambassadors for the early voting being held at the Center.

- C. Intergenerational Grant – South Hadley was one of four town in Massachusetts picked for the grant. All committee members for the project will be going for a training. Also, Nancy is working with a local Brownie group to interact at the Center. They will be making cards for Veterans.
- D. Memory Café Grant – The grant will provide start-up costs for the memory café, with the thought that the Senior Center will keep it going. The café will start in the Spring.
- E. Membership – More people are stopping into the Center. Nancy is giving lots of tours. The weekly and monthly totals are increasing.
- F. Newsletter – The Friend of the Senior Center obtained a non-profit permit for bulk mailing at the post office. That will reduce the postage costs from around \$600 to \$268 a month. Next month the newsletter will be printed on tabloid sheets instead of 8.5 X 11. This will cut printing costs as total pages printed is factored into copier costs. Long term there will be a push for more people to receive the newsletter through email or pick it up at the Center.
- G. MySeniorCenter – There are still issues with people not swiping in with they visit the Center. Leslie is hoping to get a 2<sup>nd</sup> machine for the entrance.

#### STANDING COMMITTEES:

Finance/Planning Committee – No meeting

Nominating Committee – No meeting

Policy Committee – No meeting

WESTMASS ELDERCARE REPORT: The annual meeting is Monday, November 14<sup>th</sup> at the Log Cabin. Ken explained what a Memory Café was and noted that WestMass ElderCare hosts one. Ken said he is treasurer for a few more months, but won't be treasurer next year.

A motion to adjourn was made at 5:20 p.m. by William Schenker, seconded by Laurie Casolari, and unanimously approved by the Board.

The next meeting is November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Sarah Gmeiner, secretary.