



OAKHAM COUNCIL ON AGING

Call to order: regular meeting of December 8, 2023 at 12:05 pm at Town Hall

Attending: Barbara, Jan, Clare, Priscilla, Rick; Becky

Also: Judy Menard, Paul Rochette

Approval of Minutes of Nov. 8, 2023: Barbara moved to accept the minutes as corrected; Becky seconded; approved unanimously.

Reports:

- **Outreach report (Jan)**
 - Jan tried to work out an extended schedule with the podiatrist
 - Sat with a woman with dementia
 - Helped others with mobility and transportation issues (Priscilla put in a good word for the Elderbus)
 - Jan's now recruiting vendors for the Health Fair
 - There was a good turnout for the Thanksgiving dinner.
- **Treasurer's Report (Clare)**
 - Clare found we had 4 revolving accounts – clearly an error. Laurie will fix that.
 - There have been no deposits in the revolving accounts since September; Clare will talk to the Town Treasurer.
 - There seems to have been a double-entry on one of Melanie's checks.
 - Clare is going to meet with the accountant and Treasurer to clear up some of these errors.
- **Activities Director's Report:**
 - Recruiting people for the Duck – needs 16.
 - Basic computer classes coming up in the spring, 2nd and 4th Tuesdays
 - Reached out to Pine Acres for Monday Zumba

- Will book Lunch & Learn 2 to 3 months in advance. Rick asked that promotional blurbs be sent to him.
- Melanie also spoke a bit about her hours and her need to rationalize her situation.
- Herald/Secretary report (Rick)
 - Rick has been working on the COA Town website
- Chair's report (Barbara)
 - Thanks to Edna Holloway for the quilt that Bill Mucha won
 - The Pine Acres issue has been resolved
 - Barbara needs to go before the Selectboard to resolve the issue of the fax machine.
 - Jim Burns said they'd label all the items that belong to Elder Services
 - And he said he'd remove the fax and use the building's fax machine.

Old Business:

- My Senior Center software training – tabled for now
 - Paul suggested we add an activity – “Socializing” – for every day of the week.
- Handling mutual use items, like keys, passwords, and a combination to allow keyless entry for COA members/volunteers –
 - Barbara talked about getting keys to the lock to the downstairs that we could keep in a locked box.
 - also still under discussion

New Business:

- Budget items for consideration
 - Authorization of subsidy for Bemis holiday creations workshop? Declined.
 - Christmas gift baskets –
 - there's a lot of stuff already purchased
 - food items would still need to be purchased.
 - We have gift bags; Jan will be glad to deliver them

- The question is: who would benefit from getting a Christmas gift basket? They have repair kits – various items that are useful.
 - The meals on wheels folks got the Easter baskets
 - We'll get baskets to them again for the holidays
 - And we'll add anyone who is referred to Jan to the list.
 - And we'll add cookies from the Cookie Swap
- ARPA fund ideas?
 - A new floor for the SenCen
 - Round tables for the dining area
 - A permanent sign for outside
 - Picnic table? Bocce court?
 - Upgraded electric outlets
- Subsidizing the lunch bunch – for holidays
- Policy for subsidizing non-seniors attending our activities: depends on the activity.
 - For a podiatrist, where the subsidy is direct, we shouldn't subsidize
 - For an event, where a senior may bring a younger companion, yes.
 - We'll consider these event by event.
- Melanie's hours and expectations – review and planning
 - MS wants to raise her fee for Zumba and FunkTional Fitness from \$25/class to \$35/class.
 - We should look at her hours and her pay per hour to make her position more viable
 - The MySeniorCenter will be able to track MS's hours and help us make a case.
 - We will look at this issue and how to approach it next meeting.
 -