

Robert Pueschel, Chairperson
Marilyn Mishler, Vice Chairperson
Liane Pueschel, Secretary

LESLIE HENNESSEY, Director

SOUTH HADLEY COUNCIL ON AGING
Virtual Board of Director's Meeting—March 14, 2022
Minutes

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 4:32pm by Chairperson, Robert Pueschel

Roll Call: Carol Constant, Pamela Peck, Rachel Tierney, Robert Pueschel, Liane Pueschel, Marilyn Ishler

Absent: Jim Bosman, Marsha Chapell

Guests: Judy Gooch, Kim Prough

Present: Leslie Hennessey, Director

Open Forum:

WestMass ElderCare is seeking volunteers for their Money Management Program. Individuals are needed to help seniors with check oversight (in their homes) 1-2 hours/month. A background in finance is helpful, but not required. Training sessions offered.

Approval of January 2022 Minutes: No additions or corrections. Motion to approve by Rachel Tierney and seconded by Carol Constant. All in favor.

New Business

- a. Judy Gooch from the Master Plan Implementation Committee
 - Status update on Master Plan
 - Attempting to standardize procedures
 - Public hearing March 28th @ 7pm re: Master Plan (virtual Planning Board) to receive comments/suggestions
 - Entities meet 2 times yearly to identify issues, make suggestions to the Planning Board, Selectboard, and Town Administrator.
 - Discussed goal and evaluation system and level of priorities for the COA. All are subject to modification, but goals are solid.
 - Quarterly review of goals and progress

- b. Woodlawn Park Designation
 - Proposal to petition the Selectboard to designate the COA at 45 Dayton Street and the playground as 'Woodlawn Park'. Motion to proceed with the proposal by Rachel Tierney and seconded by Carol Constant. All in favor.

- c. 53E Revolving Fund for Woodlawn Café
 - Separate funds received from the café and hold in a revolving fund to be used in the running and operation of the café.
 - Make a formal request to add proposal to the Town Meeting Warrant
 - Motion to formally request a 53E Revolving Fund be implemented for the Woodlawn Café at the COA made by Carol Constant and seconded by Marilyn Ishler. All in favor.

Old Business:a. Electric Car—

- Purchased a 2022 Hyundai Ioniq5 from Gary Rome (slightly under budget)
- Media event on March 14th for the ‘unveiling’
- Looking into signage for the doors
- 2 drivers on staff and will be trained by Hyundai as often as needed
- EV will be used for drop-offs and pickups only. Medical appts, lab work, PT, etc.
- Private drivers provide services to seniors who need assistance at appointments
- Working with Town Administrator for ‘no fee’ transportation for seniors

b. Age and Dementia Friendly Update

- Larger Committee will be meeting in April
- Smaller group will meet next week to quantify progress
- 2nd Falls Prevention Program will be presented in May
- Health Fair June 14th—Aging in Place: How to live safely at home. Several vendors will participate.
- Need to tell our story better..... focus on what we are doing to support age friendly/dementia initiative (i.e.Memory Café caregiver support groups/caregiver respite grants, etc.).

c. Mission Statement Review

- Final draft of the Senior Center Mission Statement reviewed by the Board
- Motion to accept by Carol Constant and seconded by Pamela Peck. All in favor.

d. Friends of the South Hadley Seniors

- Since the Senior Center is now open, the last curbside lunch was served on 3/15. 158 seniors participated.
- Handbag Bingo on 4/29. 140 tickets sold so far.
- Fund raising in progress for 3 Pickleball courts at BATTERY Brook Park. This may take a while to come to be. All ages will be welcomed. This activity will tie in nicely to the Age Friendly initiative in town. Scheduled play times. The area will be maintained by the Recreational Dept.

Director’s ReportA. Operations: Senior Centeri. COVID-19: updates

- Mask mandate lifted in South Hadley and have noticed an increase in participation at the COA as seniors are more comfortable. Ex: Healthy Bones & Balance increased to 2 sessions/ Zumba more robust
- Lunch capacity to 50.
- Capacity limits in multi-purpose room increase to 80 mid-March
- No limits beginning mid-April (125 for meals/180 for presentations)

- Woodlawn Café reopened on 3/9. Two part-time café and kitchen assistants are covering while Billy is out on medical leave.
- Article in Town Reminder to promote the Café and entice participation
- Seeking dishwasher for the COA

ii. Spring Programming

- Presently working on 6-month programming
- Sandy Callihane is the new Technology Instructor
- 69 seniors used tech time with the previous instructor before he left for a full-time position
- Moving forward there will be ½ hour sessions one-on-one, or 2 people at a time and then will decide what works best.

Next meeting: April 11, 2022

Motion to adjourn by Marilyn Ishler and seconded by Pamela Peck

Meeting adjourned at 5:52pm

Liane Pueschel, Secretary