

THE WINCHENDON COUNCIL ON AGING

Date: January 23, 2024

Minutes of the Meeting

Accepted
MM
2/20/2024

MEETING OPENED AT: 9:30

WINCHENDON TOWN CLERK
RCUD FEB 28 2024 PM2:03

PRESENT: Miranda Jennings, Director, Judy Mizhir, President, Jean Joyal, Anne Coderre, Rita Amenta, Brenda Kosakowski, AnneMary Smith, Diane Alexander, Vicki LaBrack.

EXCUSED: Lynn Murray, Phil White

ZOOM PARTICIPATION: Gail Casavant, Nancy Romanowski, Mary Calandrella

Mary Calandrella: Seniors are near and dear to my heart, so any help that we can give from the Town Manager's office, we're always here and willing to help. If you need anything, let us know..

DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Some things that are noteworthy: We have 5 vehicles; all are running. We are using 3 of them now. One needs to be inspected and tuned up.

*All staffing has been filled with the exception of the nutrition coordinator's position which is almost filled.

*We have three drivers, including two new hires, Traci and Tom. One of them, Art, is also doing the maintenance. Jen is doing dispatch; Cindy's job, a nutrition coordinator to be hired, and Dave, who is driving and doing some IT work.

*Our elevator does not work. I think it a combination of the cold and mechanics.

*The boiler went out, so there was no heat. I suspect the building is doing an initiation with me.

* I have noticed some paint issues that will need to be addressed. Lead paint issues may need to be addressed also.

*There is a senior center platform called MySeniorCenter, specifically designed for seniors. It is a way for seniors to schedule their activities, sign in, and track who is in the building. It tracks rides and sign-ups for rides. Many senior centers in Massachusetts use this platform and I would love for us to take advantage of it. It's very user friendly. It will coordinate programs and activities.

*This software can, as demonstrated by my graff, what activities people are using most, what they want to see. It will track how many people are served, how many rides given, etc. It is currently used by most of the surrounding Senior Centers in, Gardner, Westminste, etc. MART also is using this software; providing funding, a driver, and will likely require us to use this software so we can be integrated with them. Participants will be given a key fob, like the YMCA to swipe when signing in each time they come.

The current paper calendar is efficient, but this will do so much more.

*In the last 10 days, we have provided @500 people. About 23 people come to the Center consistently.

*Bingo continues to be very popular.

*Medical rides are ongoing to @15 different people going to Gardner, Worcester, within town, etc.

*We would like to see more transport shuttle to the YMCA for wellness programs, etc. There are currently 2 people who request this transport consistently.

*We have 11 Pickleball players coming fairly consistently.

*Traci picks up boxes of food each Thursday and brings them to seniors and disabled, in their homes; @5/week.

*We have had a grocery store run with 7 people.

*One lady uses the exercise room a lot.

- *The Food Pantry is being utilized.
- *One person was referred to Social Services, looking for fuel assistance.
- *Larry does amazing puzzle constructions in the puzzle room.
- *I just met Jean who comes in to crochet and is willing to give a class every Tuesday from 9:30-11.
- *SHINE representative will come in 1 time/month on Wednesdays by appointment to help with insurance sign-ups, etc.
- *Line dancing will be offered again with Mary Lou Harrington on Wednesday morning.
- *Bob Jordan will be coming in to play some music.
- I plan to send out a newsletter to explain more fully the agenda for February.
- *A yoga class was questioned and has not yet been finalized.
- *Sewing and crafting was mentioned; sewing machines being available.
- *A survey asking what activities are wanted/needed, is being distributed here and around town so we can attract and serve more people at the Senior Center. This will be available for a month or so; to be returned to the Senior Center or being collected by the various organizations.
- *I have been in collaboration with the Parks and Recreation Committee. The GALA organization would like to look at doing classes here; SHINE; the Red Cross. We have applied for a grant.
- *All staff positions are filled at this point with the exception of the Nutrition Coordinator. The position has been posted. One application has been received so far.

Director's report moved and accepted unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS: Nominating Committee report was given and it was unanimously approved to welcome Brenda Kosakowski to the Council. John Webber has retired and moved to another state. His resignation has been received. Brenda Kosakowski, who has been an associate for some time will fill this position. All were in favor when put to vote unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS: It was suggested that a Cake Auction be held again this year. Although traditionally done on Valentine's Day, this year it was suggested for Mother's Day. All were in favor of the postponement. It was suggested that the weekend might draw a bigger crowd. Discussion ensued. A small committee was formed to work with the director on this project.

*Cards were signed for Cindy Knight and John Webber and will be presented with a small gift in appreciation.

*Lynn Murray and Art Amenta have been working on the clock to make it work well again. Ms. Jennings proposed a clock restarting event to celebrate it. Agreed.

*The various committees and membership were reviewed for Ms. Jennings.-

MEETING CLOSED AT: 10:20 by vote.

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, February 20, 2024 @9:30AM.

Respectfully submitted:

Diane M. Alexander

Secretary