

THE WINCHENDON COUNCIL ON AGING  
October 20, 2022  
Minutes of the Meeting

Accepted  
Dec 1, 2022  
JAM  
WINCHENDON TOWN CLERK  
RCUD DEC 6 2022 AM 11:37

Meeting called to order 9:34AM.

PRESENT: Gail Casavant, Vice chairwoman, Sheila Betro, Director, Phil White, Anne Coderre, Diane Alexander, Rita Amenta, AnnMary Smith.

ABSENT: Judy Mizhir, Chairwoman, John Webber, Jean Joyal, Lynn Murray, Nancy Romanowski.

MOVED TO HONERABLE MEMBER: Dick LaDeau.

Secretary's minutes for September were moved and accepted unanimously.

REPORT FROM DIRECTOR: Things were slower in September with attendance being down although there were still 1,936 meals served thus far.

It was noted that compared with other local Centers, Templeton is open Mon.-Thurs. 10-4 with no meals served. Ashburnham serves @5 meals/day on average, being open just 3 days/week, Tues., Wed., Thurs, 9-1. Westminster is open 5 days/week and serves approx. 5 meals/day, delivering 8-12 Meals on Wheels compared with Winchendon delivering on Monday @99 meals, Wednesday, @95, and by Friday @108 delivered. I am in communication with Directors from Ashburnham and Templeton who may have people coming to Winchendon for meals and are trying to hire a van and driver to transport them.

I am currently meeting with our Town Manager to see how much we can improve the wages of the drivers which compare well below those of other local Senior Center drivers. The allotted number of hours allowed the drivers is a hardship also, to get the patrons as well as Meals on Wheels food delivered within the allowed time.

There will be a Covid-19 & Flu vaccination clinic held here on Wednesday, November 30th from 9AM-1:30PM.

There was a cheese tasting held by Smith's Country Cheese yesterday, the 19th, which was a great success.

Statistics for September thus far are:

MEALS SERVED	MILES DRIVEN	MEDICAL RUNS	LUNCHESES SERVED	SHOPPING TRIPS	OTHER
1936	2126.9	68	38	2	2

Director's report was moved and accepted unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS: Review was undertaken of the Planning Committee Evaluation. This will be reviewed annually.

A lawyer has consented to come to the Center from Athol to do presentations, periodically, to answer questions, etc. They will speak with anyone making an appointment about wills, nursing homes, etc. This lawyer is known to be knowledgeable, polite, and very helpful. The charge is @\$75.

Sharon comes from Fallon periodically to give a presentation and offer refreshments. She is well liked by the patrons.

The director currently meets regularly to coordinate with Dave Connor from Winchendon Housing and Miranda from the CAC.

A food drive by the Cornerstone Church recently was very appreciated. They did a great job.

NEW BUSINESS: There is slated to be a new Senior Center built in Gardner.

The Peanut Auction is going to be renewed, run by Anne Coderre, and is looking for donations. Snacks or sweets are a hit.

For elderly people living solely on Social Security and/or are below the poverty level, many services are offered, such as HIP, SNAP, Fuel Assistance, light and phone bill assistance, etc. The Senior Center currently assists them to obtain what they need in that regard. It is noted that income eligibility has increased though extra help is available.

The Friends of Old Murdock will represent the seniors at the October Fest this year on Saturday. They will have a scratch ticket raffle.

Although raffles are great fund raisers, Phil White also proposed a plan to the Friends of Old Murdock and the COA to create a 4 page flyer/newsletter to be sold. Advertisements may be solicited for, from local businesses and included. He is looking for ideas for this project.

A motion was made to adjourn at 10:43AM, seconded and passed unanimously.

The Policy and Procedures meeting will be rescheduled.

Respectfully submitted:

Diane M. Alexander, Secretary