

WINCHENDON COUNCIL ON AGING  
MAY 11, 2021  
MINUTES OF MEETING

WINCHENDON TOWN CLERK  
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Accepted  
6/8/2021

PRESENT: Sheila Betro, Jackie Flynn, Jean Joyal, John Webber, Judy Mizhir, Ann Coderre, Laurie Hayward, Gail Casavant, Rita Amenta, Diane Alexander.

VISITING: David Alexander.

ABSENT: Dick LaDeau, Phil White, Gloria Labrack.

Meeting began at 9:30AM.

Minutes of 4/20/21 were accepted.

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

The first Covid-19 vaccination clinic was held at the Senior Center on 4/14/21 and went well. There were lots of volunteers to help and 298 of 300 inoculations were delivered. Tomorrow, 5/12/21, will be the second dose clinic held at the Senior Center. Our Covid-19 clinic was made possible with the efforts of State Senator Anne Gobi and State Representative John Zlotnik. Thank you to everyone who was involved in making this event a success.

Previous CDC guidelines called for the Senior Center to have a 'soft' opening at the end of May this year. New guidelines recommend opening at the end of June. There will be elevator and van restrictions. An appointment must be made to enter the building.

Currently there is one kitchen supervisor and one 'meals on wheels' delivery person providing the lunch needs to those unable to come to the Center for pick-up.

There were 1837 meals delivered or picked up in April and Kevin Reedy provided 35 medical trips. Thanks to Mr. Joe Betro who volunteered to fill in when needed during absentee times.

Shopping trips were made, but limited. There were other trips provided to banks and local errands.

The Senior Center is available five days a week to provide books, games, puzzles, counseling, etc. Outreach is also a large part of our curriculum to check on Winchendon elders.

In the future with the reopening we look forward to holding programs for crafts, dining room meals, yoga and other socialization events. We are open to suggestions for additional and new programs.

At the end of April a 'Grab 'n' Go' lunch activity was provided and was well received and attended. Guitar music was provided in addition to lunch.

Judy Mizhir related her memories of the COA office being at the Clark Memorial sharing a room with a massage therapist, then sharing space at the Ipswich Drive Elder Housing. When the opportunity arose for the Old Murdock High School building to be reused the COA with strong community support was awarded the site for use as a senior center. With a CDBG grant, a grant from the Agricultural

Commission and funding from the Robinson -Broadhurst Foundation the building was made handicapped accessible and remodeled to become a senior center for Winchendon. This occurred with minimal cost to the town, preserving the building for future generations, and providing a comprehensive senior center for our elders.

Currently funding is needed to repair deterioration on the bell tower and exterior brick façade. On May 17<sup>th</sup> Town Meeting Article 14 requests monies for these repairs. Funding this article will not increase taxes at this time. Phone calls and informational flyers encouraging attendance at the meeting is being done. COA members are asked to help by sharing this information with the community.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the director's report, which was unanimous.

Meeting was voted on to adjourn at 10:13.

Next meeting: June 8, 2021, at 9:30AM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Diane M. Alexander