

THE WINCHENDON COUNCIL ON AGING
August 10, 2021
MINUTES OF MEETING

*accepted
unanimously
9/14/2021
JAM/Chair*

Present: Gail Cassavant, Vice Chairwoman, Philip White, Ann Coderre, Dick LaDeau, Diane Alexander, Sheila Betro, Director, Jean Joyal, Gloria LaBrack, Rita Amenta, Ann-Mary Smith (associate member)

Absent: Judy Mizhir, John Webber, Jackie Flynn, Laurie Hayward

WINCHENDON TOWN CLERK
RCUD SEP 20 2021 PM5:08

Meeting called to order: 9:33 AM

Minutes from July were accepted with one addition to the absentee list.

GUEST: Maureen (Moe) Ward, Treasurer of the Friends of Old Murdock and Vice Chairwoman of FinCom in Winchendon

Discussion today was to encourage the Town Manager to provide for financial compensation to Sheila Betro, director of the Senior Center, to make up for vacation time she was unable to use during the Covid -19 pandemic due to elder services required at the senior center and concurrently a reduction in staff during that period of time (total unused hours was 229 and she is allowed to roll over 40 hours per prior arrangement with TM leaving 189 hours uncompensated).

It is possible that this compensation money could come from the Covid-19 town fund which currently has over \$200,000 for Covid-19 related issues.

The Town Manager, Justin Sultzbach has the sole authority to make this compensation decision.

The motion was approved unanimously by the COA members to send an undetermined delegation to petition Mr. Sultzbach for this purpose.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT: The Senior Center was closed for most of last year, 2020, the skeleton crew delivered 20,030 meals to the senior community, or they were picked up at the center.

In 2020 the vans drove 15,998 miles, providing 425 medical, 11 shopping, and various other transportation for elders with full virus restrictions in place.

The center is now open 5 days a week for lunches and activities. There were less people utilizing the Senior Center bus last year, understandably, and this year the bus has been full to capacity.

Sheila's service goes above and beyond, even driving when the bus has stopped for the day and making sure that meals are provided for shut-ins regularly.

Last year averaged 40-60 lunches served/day. This year monthly (July) average is 42. In July, 1986 meals were served with on site lunches and delivery Vans drove 1452 miles, making 67 medical related trips, 2 shopping trips and other runs. Full Covid-19 guidelines are observed including wearing masks and wipe downs at every stop.

Upcoming events include Chair yoga **Mondays 10:30-11:30AM**, Bingo **Wednesdays at 12:30**, and an **Indoor Yard Sale** in the auditorium. In addition is the exercise room equipment, pool table room, etc.

An indoor **Barbecue** is scheduled for **September 28th**, Tuesday, at 11:30 AM. The lunch will be catered by The Glen Cafe. Guitar music will be provided. A donation is requested. The event is provided by a grant from the Robinson-Broadhurst Foundation.

Building repair: The Town Manager and Tighe & Bond Architects visited recently, had lunch, and assessed the situation. Repairs will most likely begin in the Spring of 2022.

~~A double chain-link fence was erected to protect passers-by, costing \$150/month. The outside fence was removed recently for \$450.~~

All new business will be forwarded to the September meeting.

Next meeting: **September 14th at 9:30 AM**. This is the second Tuesday to avoid conflict with Labor Day.

Meeting adjourned at 10:07 AM.

Respectfully submitted:
Diane M. Alexander