

minutes accepted 12/8/2021
JMM.
Chairman

THE WINCHENDON COUNCIL ON AGING
November 02, 2021
Minutes of the Meeting

WINCHENDON TOWN CLERK
RCUD DEC 21 2021 PM 1:34

PRESENT: Judy Mizhir, Chairwoman, Sheila Betro, Director, Jean Joyal, Anne Coderre, Rita Amenta, Diane Alexander, Dick Ladeau, Phil White, Gail Casavant, Lynn Murray, Associate, Ann Mary Smith, Associate.

Absent: John Webber, Laurie Hayward, Gloria La Brack, Jackie Flynn, David Alexander, Asso.

Guest speaker: Justin Sulzbach, Town Manager.

Minutes of COA meeting of Sept. 14, 2021, accepted unanimously.

List of Board members and minutes of Nominating Committee were distributed and corrections made.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Shrink wrap has partially come away from the tower from the wind and rain storm last weekend, exposing underlayment; to be reattached. Town Manager is aware.

In 6 weeks a general contractor will be on board and will likely begin repairs to the bldg. in the Spring of 2022.

In October numbers of lunches in house, was up to 20-30. We are seeking out and inviting 'younger elders' to participate in the activities at the Senior Center also. People seem to enjoy chatting and being in the dining room most.

Discussed bringing a copy of The Winchendon Courier printout to display.

The current newsletter has an article from the Gardner News in it.

We would like to know the number of elders in Winchendon from the Census.

Will be petitioning Robinson/Broadhurst to obtain a grant for a battery-powered snowblower; also a battery-powered weed-whacker and lawn mower.

Sheila currently shovels and sands entrance. Town does a good job of plowing the parking area.

Will also request money for a new TV in the recreation room. The present, 55" TV is dying.

Art Amenta currently does a great job clearing the yard and maintaining it even at his 80 years of age.

Events in October: In addition to regular activities, a pulled-pork party was well attended by about 30 people. A halloween party was very much enjoyed especially the school 'march through' in costume.

There were 1,842 congregate meals served; home deliveries are increasing.

There were 80-90 trips for medical transportation made. Had to turn some away for not enough time

slots or availability of the van. It's a shame to have to do that.

At holidays extra meals and foods are given.

2,246 miles were driven in the month of October.

CAC has 2 unused vans, but to go to the food pantry. When last contacted (2 yrs. ago) we were turned down from using one or more d/t insurance or liability issues; will pursue.

Currently reviewing applications from 3 people to replace retiring David Traveres at the end of November.

UPCOMING: Nov. 15th, Monday a breakfast will be served.

Nov. 16th, Tuesday, a Thanksgiving Special dinner will be served. Currently, 35 people have signed up.

December 13th or 16th (weather permitting) we are planning a luncheon and van tour of the lights in town.

Director's report was moved to accept and seconded; unanimously approved.

Guest speaker, Justin Sulzback, Town Manager: Introductions were given around the circle of attendees.

"I like to get out of the office; visit other places. I am focusing on DPW work to improve the town. Rebuilding improvements will kick off in the Spring of 2022. Taxes need to be put back into the town projects such as water and sewer plant updates, historic preservation, library, and economic development. I favor an economic approach.

"Please attend the special town meeting on November 8th at 7PM. There are 17 articles. There is a lot of work to be done here; pay bills, create a municipal lot on Pleasant St. to accommodate equipment for the work on Central St. in May, 2022.

"A projected 2022 deficit to address water and sewer issues.

"All are welcome to come into my office with any issues or concerns.

"Attendance is strongly encouraged at the November 8th town meeting at 7PM.

"I want to build additional cash into the budget for roads in need of repair. We will have to start small repairing 1 road at a time.

"A grant has been obtained to repair some roads (like Maple St. hill or Tucker Hill) in the Spring.

"There is a Mass. project including the Zoning Board and Conservation Commission to improve the 56 acres of Ingallside Park property with trails, paths from Elm St. and also restore buildings.

"Within the next 3 years 4C's property will be razed and a small park installed.

"The Old Murdock, 1.5 million \$ preservation project is currently obtaining an OPM to manage the project and a designer. The project will then be put out to bid. Should take about 1 year to begin Phase I. Phase II will follow having obtained funding at town meeting."

OLD BUSINESS: The Fall Festival was a success for us. Scratch ticket sales yielded a small profit.

NEW BUSINESS: The Policies and Procedures committee meeting scheduled to follow this meeting is postponed until after the holidays.

A long range plan for the future handout from the Planning Committee. The 2014 Guidelines for Evaluation of Services will be reviewed post-Covid with the Friends of Old Murdock. In January we will set up a subcommittee.

We will update the Nominating Committee and the Bylaw Committee.

Consideration was made for the upcoming 2022 library Tree Decorating contribution by the COA. Lynn Murray enthusiastically volunteered to help with that project.

Halloween harvest figures suggestion was made.

Ridges' program participation was discussed.

Next meeting of the COA is scheduled for Tuesday, December 7th, at 9:30AM.

Meeting was adjourned at 11AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Jane M. Alexander,
Secretary