

1/10/2018 - Minutes

I. CALL TO ORDER

Present: Peter Nordberg, Susan McCarthy, Irene Leddy, Sheila Jones, Fran Lamb, Phil Durno, Joanna Reagan

The meeting was called to order by Peter Nordberg at 6:02 p.m. at the Town Hall, Main Street, Conference Room A. A warm welcome to Joanna Reagan who is our new member to the Council on Aging Board.

II. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

A Motion was made by Phil Durno to accept the minutes of the last Meeting (November, 2017). Motion seconded by Sheila Jones all in favor.

III. SIGN VOUCHERS

– Vouchers signed

IV. OLD BUSINESS/NEW BUSINESS

IV.1. Directors Report

Grants: In the last month we have had 3 cultural grants awarded! We have also submitted a request for a grant for more computers with the help from the Friends that Michelle and Maryanne have been working on. In February we'll learn if we get the Nashoba Valley Healthcare Grant for another quality diet and nutrition class.

New Years and Holiday Celebrations: Both events were enjoyed by all! Our new dance class got to perform, our new choir got to perform, the DJ's and musicians were wonderful. Special thanks to the Pepperell Police Association for supporting the Holiday dinner!

December Tree Lighting. Was beautiful. It's of some comfort perhaps to see this event bring more and more extended families in to sit, listen and hopefully find some peace in the program. Thanks to Hazel Brooks Foundation for sponsoring the harpist! Thank you, Pastor Whitmore, Mark Andrews and my husband Mark for supporting the event so well.

Presents for Parents: So many more people to thank than I can articulate here, you know who you are and I love you so much for the time you put in. We handed out vouchers to all the churches in town to ensure we were reaching as many people as we could. And there are many. Next year we've noted to start that process a bit earlier. I want to thank the Pepperell Groton Rotary for sponsoring the Band, Movin Sounds and the grilled cheese and tomato soup and also the volunteers who made cookies. I'd also like to thank our volunteer photographer Marion, Al Buckley for being our Santa and Chef Dennis for making the soup and Michelle, Cheryl and Diane for their hard work. It was truly a success.

Matter of Balance: Brand new course! Starts this Friday at 12:45 at the Center. You must sign up for the course and if you didn't get in this first class, we will have another so sign up! We kicked off in Groton on Tuesday. Great class – check the details online in the newsletter.

More Classes More Classes: Believe it or not for a site so large it is increasingly difficult to find the time and the rooms to handle the growing interest in our wide range of classes. Bone Builders class is a good example, with more than 12 people on a wait list, which is a full class, we need to find a place for it 2 days a week. We are also looking for Tia Chi and a Boxing classes. We'll continue to work hard to meet the needs of our seniors. Nice problem to have.

Van Driver Update: Jim Casserly is now our permanent driver for Mondays and Fridays. Thank you Becky Torpey for training Jim. Becky will fill in as needed and will helping around the office and van scheduling. So much thanks to Becky Torpey for all her time as Van Driver!

July 4th: Long way off but meeting with that committee already and talking about leveraging the parking lot and the Van service to shuttle people to the Fireworks. For some attendees – may be the first time they have ever driven in the center's parking lot so good PR! Also, we may partner with the committee to help sponsor a town wide variety show where The Friends and July 4th Committee split proceeds. So, dust off your harmonicas, guitars and dance shoes people! Auditions could be as soon

as February.

Exercise Donations: Have been slightly raised (more along the lines of other centers in the area) to help defer the costs of the programs. I've had many conversations with our seniors and there's widespread agreement the costs make sense and are still very affordable. It is now \$3.00 for Pepperell residents and \$4.00 for out of town.

? I would like to Thank Gerry Couper for working on our website. At this time we are revamping the website by making it more like are center with photos of the staff and professional and personal bios. Sheila Jones made a motion to accept the Directors report; Irene Leddy seconds the motion, all in favor.

IV.2. Discuss And Approve Lunch Donation & Exercise Donation

Lunch Donations: This January we will be aligning our lunch donation with the other COA's and Montachusett Opportunity Council Elder Nutrition, Meals on Wheels in our area. All participants will pay \$3.00 for the lunch.

IV.3. Friends Report

Report from Friends: Bob Newton

Bob indicates that he agrees with Susan on the cost of the meals. The friends of the Pepperell Seniors have had 2 fund raisers since the last report. They were made in November and in December. These fund raisers brought in between \$750.00 and \$800.00 which was a result of raffles. This will provide us with some needed income so that we can continue to provide help for seniors and the senior center.

The Friends once again purchased the Turkeys for Thanksgiving dinner at the Senior Center, and once again Chef Dennis did a wonderful job in preparing that dinner. The month of January is also the month of the Friends annual meeting. In the annual meeting of the Friends of Seniors, officers were elected. Only one change was made in the officers and that was the office of Secretary.

The Friends dues are due now. We have not raised the dues in a long time they are still the same as they were as long as can remember. Dues are a must in order for us to provide funding for projects. Dues are \$12.00 for a couple and \$7.00 for an individual. An example of one of the project the Friends fund is, the floors cost \$3500 a year. I urge all of you to become members of the friends.

Bob went to Mark Andrews and told him that he needs to think about adding to our Senior Center. We are getting more and more programs and the building is nice but it is getting full. We need more room. Mark Andrews says there is a building committee formed and they will be looking into it. This would be a long term project. Bob also brought up the fact that we need more Sr. housing in Pepperell. A discussion took place regarding the need for Sr. housing and the need for Ranch style houses in the town of Pepperell so that seniors have someplace to downsize from their larger homes.

Bob thanked the Staff of the Sr. Center for the great job they are all doing. A vote of thanks went out to Susan, the Director of the Senior Center and her staff.

Fran Lamb made a motion to accept the Friends report, Phil Durno seconds the motion. All in favor. Irene Leddy thanked the Friends for all they do for the Sr. Center.

V. Other Matters That May Arise That The Chair Didn't Reasonably Anticipate

Sheila Jones brought up the fact that the fans need to be cleaned in the activity room of the Sr. Center. Susan indicated she cleaned them herself last week

VI. COMMENTS

VII. NEXT MEETING

Next meeting February 13, 2018 at 6:00

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting Adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by: Sheila Jones Council on Aging, Secretary