Senior Center Board Minutes – June 10, 2021

*Present: Doug Field, Wayne Wickland, Janice Wright, Anne Yuryan (Ashfield); Ellen Eller, Tony Jewell, Joanne Soroka (Buckland); Suzanne E. Bishop, Nancy Brewer, Sylvia Smith, Penny Spearance (Shelburne); Amanda Joao, Director.*

Chair Doug Field called the meeting to order at 3:04. Sylvia Smith moved to accept the May 13 minutes as written. Nancy Brewer seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Treasurer Sue Bishop reported only routine expenses as this year’s budget winds up. Director Amanda Joao has been able to use money on office supplies.

In her Director’s report, Amanda said she booked the Buckland Recreation Area Pavilion for Thursdays through September, although we will not be able to hold our annual picnic there this year. Amanda said the Center has received calls from new people. She also noted that, per the Executive Office of Elder Affairs, masks are required for all state-run programs and services.

Expansion Committee Chair Sylvia Smith reported that postcards and flyers were prepared to explain the Senior Services District to area residents, even though it won’t be voted on at this year’s Town Meetings. The postcards were mailed to over 3,000 homes and businesses; the flyers will be handed out at Town Meetings, transfer stations, etc. Also, a joint select board meeting is being arranged.

Doug reported that the Ashfield COA will hold a full-sized picnic on August 11. The Ashfield select board created a Senior Services Committee and prepared a survey for residents. Results were mostly positive among the 170 people who responded. Transportation is a major concern, as well as the fact there are no accessible locations for gatherings in town. It was also noted that some Ashfield residents want to go to Northampton instead of Shelburne Falls, a route FRTA doesn’t cover.

Discussion followed about opposition to the Senior Center in Ashfield. Wayne Wickland said the COA isn’t certain who is causing problems and spreading misinformation, but he said there’s a need to combat that. He suggested setting up public forums as soon as possible.

Nancy Brewer reported that the Senior Center Foundation (SCF) Spring Appeal raised over $10,000 bringing the SCF’s total assets to $253,908.53. The board talked about a possible name change. They also discussed the Quilt raffle and the idea of providing each board member with 10 raffle tickets at $5 each.

Doug suggested that excess money the SCF raises should go into their capital account. Sylvia made a motion to that effect; Sue Bishop seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

New Business: There will be a drive-through COVID shot clinic at the Charlemont Fairgrounds on Sunday, June 12, from 10:00 to Noon. No appointments needed.

Penny Spearance said we may have another meeting with the Women’s Club in the fall.

Also we would like to meet with the new director of the Mary Lyon Foundation and, perhaps, set up a possible partner program.

The meeting adjourned at 3:44. Next Meeting: Thursday, July 8, at 3:00 at the **Buckland Recreation Area.**

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Eller