Senior Center Board Minutes – August 12, 2021

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

Chair Doug Field called the meeting to order at 3:04. Penny Spearance moved to accept the July minutes as written; Sue Bishop seconded the motion, which passed with one abstention.

Treasurer Sue Bishop reported that expenses are routine. There was discussion of whether there was any money left over that might be used by the Center. The only purchase deemed necessary was new file cabinets. It was noted that whatever is left in the Operating budget cannot be “turned back.”

Director Amanda Joao provided a detailed written report that covered numerous projects of her own (including work with Leanne Dowd on SHINE and the development of articles for the Sept/Oct newsletter and the website’s new “News Reel” feature) as well as Activities (among them, in-person “Healthy Bones & Balance,” Drumming, Men’s Night, Knitting and Bingo); Outreach (62 unduplicated contacts, 121 duplicated contacts, including daily calls from seniors and their family members, 11 check-in calls to isolated and/or at-risk seniors, plus providing I&R for 18 calls from non-consortium towns); and Transportation (117 rides given).

When asked about presenting future programs and events with regard to COVID-related issues, Amanda said, “We’d rather plan, and cancel if needed.” She noted that drive-by meals will continue but congregate meals will probably be last.

Speaking for the Ashfield COA, Doug Field said about 30 people attended their annual picnic. He reported that the town has a new Administrator and a new Fire Chief, and discussion followed regarding the senior services survey that was sent to Ashfield residents. Doug said the COA will meet with the Ashfield Select Board to find out what the Board wants.

Penny Spearance said the Expansion Committee would be setting up a joint meeting with the three select boards. The last one was two years ago.

Nancy Brewer said there hadn’t been a Senior Center Foundation (SCF) meeting. However there was discussion about a letter from SCF President Margaret Payne concerning the possible expansion of its support for other communities beyond the members of the Consortium. Several members the Senior Center Board objected to that idea, pointing out that the Foundation was formed specifically to support the Senior Center after the original Friends of the Senior Center morphed into the “Friends of West County Seniors.” In doing so, they funneled money primarily raised by Shelburne and Buckland residents *for* the Center *away* from the Center. It was suggested that we invite SCF members to one of our upcoming meetings to talk about this.

The meeting adjourned at 3:53. Next Meeting: Thursday, September 9, at 3:00 at theBuckland Recreation Area pavilion.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Eller