

TOWN OF SHEFFIELD
COUNCIL ON AGING
SEPTEMBER 11, 2018
SHEFFIELD SENIOR CENTER
6:30 pm

Board Members Present: Patricia Hardisty, Acting Chairperson
David Smith Jr.
Michelle Harwood
Dorris Van Deusen
Eileen Clarke

Board Members Absent: John Gilligan

Others Present: Kathie Loring, Executive Director
Madonna Meagher, Assistant to the Director

Members of the Public: Rhonda LaBombard

Acting Chair Hardisty called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Michelle Harwood moved to approve the July 10, 2018 minutes seconded by Eileen Clarke. The motion was unanimously approved by the board.

REORGANIZATION

Acting Chair Hardisty welcomed Eileen Clarke as a new board member as of July 2018. The next order of business was a reorganization of the board electing a new COA Chairman and Vice Chairman. Acting Chair Hardisty gave much thought about taking on the chairmanship of the COA but declined to be chair; instead wanted to continue being an active member of the board. After much discussion, Dorris Van Deusen made a motion to nominate Eileen Clarke for COA Chairman seconded by David Smith Jr. Member Clarke accepted the nomination. Acting Chair Hardisty asked for other nominations and there were none. The motion was unanimously approved by the board. Member Hardisty asked for nominations for Vice Chairman. Board Member Van Deusen nominated member Patricia Hardisty for COA Vice Chairman but member Hardisty declined the nomination. David Smith Jr. nominated Dorris Van Deusen for Vice Chairman seconded by Michelle Harwood. Van Deusen agreed to the nomination. Patricia Hardisty asked for other nominations and there were none. Motion to elect Van Deusen passed unanimously.

PROGRAMING & EVENT UPDATE:

Executive Director Loring reported that the center had been very busy since the board met in July.

- Laurie Hils the South Berkshire Veterans Agent has been coming to the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month for the Congregate Meal. Veteran's meal donation is covered by Hils. At the September 5 Congregate Meal there were over 40 diners with many veterans. Executive Director Loring thanked all the volunteers for their hard work serving the diners.
- The COA Bar-B-Que netted just under \$300 and the Friends Murder Mystery was a success.
- There were three successful trips from the center in August; one to Sharon Playhouse, The Bennington Museum and a joint group of 35 persons with the Red Hats to Lake George.
- A MGM casino trip in Springfield is planned for November and a bus trip is scheduled for December to Holyoke for a dinner/show/shopping and then a tour through Forest Park for holiday light display.
- Executive Director Loring thanked everyone who helped keep the center running while she was out ill in August.
- The center had a small space at the Sheffield Fair. There was literature and newsletters from the center.
- There are performers scheduled for the third Thursday in September. Doug Schmolze will present a music and coordinated power point presentation of Hollywood Films. The October third Thursday will be an Oktoberfest.
- Folk musician Tom Ingersol is scheduled for October 22.
- Farmer's market coupons were distributed on a first-come/first-serve basis.
- Big Y flu shot clinics have been scheduled for October, and Elder Services will have a SHINE counselor here at the center October 26th.
- The annual veterans lunch will be on Nov. 8 and Doug Schmolze will give a concert of WWI & WWII music.
- Another Paint & Sip has been scheduled to benefit the center
- Dick Magenis is organizing a poker night for Friday, October 26th
- Executive Director Loring will be attending the MCOA conference October 24-26
- Sheffield's annual Trunk or Treat is scheduled for October 26 at the Town Hall parking lot. Volunteers are needed to pass out cider at the COA table. Additionally, the PTO will leave a box at the center for candy donations
- The winter calendar is in progress

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ITEMS:

- Executive Director Loring stated the van driver job position had not been filled. The job posting will be advertised in the Shopper's Guide according to Town Administrator Rhonda LaBombard. No local certification training for the van is making Steve Hannum's recertification difficult. For a new driver, required training from BRTA could be three hours away from Sheffield and might require three different trips.

- An Elder Services grant was received for “helping hands” which was used to do some advertising and for paid volunteer drivers.
- A grant for bereavement has been secured working with Elder Services and also to help with reimbursement for personal rides.
- AARP needs volunteers for tax services. AARP has been doing tax services in Gt. Barrington but would come down to our center if we can get volunteers, no prior experience is necessary. All ages from high school on up are welcome to be trained.
- BRTA Drug and Alcohol policy was approved by the Selectboard and forwarded up to BRTA.
- Executive Director Loring was asked to be on the Elder Services Title III advisory board which will meet once a month on the first Monday.
- Executive Director Loring is working on a cultural council grant earmarked for Gregory Maichack for a pastel workshop for this spring. He gave a pastel workshop last year and it was well attended.
- A 16 year old teenager came into the office with her family and would like to be a regular volunteer. Executive Director Loring will follow up with her about volunteering here at the center.
- On Wednesday September 5, the fire alarm sounded when there was kitchen smoke from all the cooking for the Congregate Meal. What was concerning to Director Loring was that not one person left the building, not one person moved. A fire drill might be important to have as well as a presentation about elder fire safety.

CHAIRMAN ITEMS:

None were presented.

FRIENDS ITEMS:

Member Harwood reported that former Friend of the Sheffield Senior Center, Sharon Milukas had died. The Friends are looking for a cassette tape player and a ping pong table donation. The current tape player keeps breaking the exercise tapes. Member Harwood also understood that there might be a lunch time fundraiser with a movie in February. The Friends sales at Sheffield Fair on September 8 at the town park was a success.

MEMBER ITEMS:

Member Van Deusen suggested that the senior center have a gift shop where people could buy things that are handmade. Member Van Deusen also asked if crafts could be sold and a percentage of the sale be given to the Friends. Discussion ensued about the possibility of a gift shop. Executive Director Loring mentioned that space was an issue but the possibility of a future dedicated space for such a shop could be reconsidered.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Town Administrator Rhonda LaBombard in reaction to the suggestion of having items sold at the center, stated that people can't be making things for a profit and then giving the senior center a percentage. Items would need to be donated to the Friends and then sold for a profit to help the Friends fundraising. Town Administrator Rhonda LaBombard also commented that if no volunteer could be at the Trunk or Treat, the Town Hall would be able to set up a table inside the building.

David Smith Jr. moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:52 pm, seconded by Dorris Van Deusen. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by,

Madonna Meagher
Assistant to the Director

Documents Reviewed:
Minutes