MINUTES OF COUNCIL OF AGING MEETING via ZOOM

August 31, 2021

Attendance: COA Members Bob Blair, Chairman, Lori Fearebay, Pat Wheeler, Rachel Boyer; COA Director Victoria Flynn, Town Administrator; Chris Keefe, Select Board Liaison

Meeting to order via ZOOM due to COVID

1. Roll Call
2. Vote to accept COA meeting minutes from 7/27/2021 - unanimous
3. Treasurer’s Reports: Financial updates –

Donations = $60.00

Expenses (August) = $559.10

Part Time Wages = $573.39

Director Wages $2725.46

1. Van, Tai-Chi, Yoga

VAN: Ridership is up, but van is driven only 3 days/wk; >3-4 riders/wk

Van driver position is being reposted; previous hire is no longer available

Check engine light is on, service scheduled this Friday

YOGA: 8-10 attendees/wk both in person and virtual

TAI-CHI : 2-5 per week, in person (can be virtual if needed)

1. Powder House News

Was sent on 8/30/21

Submission date is normally 3rd Friday of the month

For Q4, may bump submission date up a week (mid-October) to incorporate calendar for upcoming events

Ideas: 5 W’s article to incorporate interviews and highlight Select Board volunteers

1. Grab & Go

Calls have been made out to General Store- waiting for callback with quote per meal

May need to explore home delivery options

More information is needed on COVID vs. COA funding; Victoria to report back at next meeting

1. Vote to approve COA co-sponsor Teddy Roosevelt Berlin Seniors 9/26/21 at 1:30- unanimous
2. TRIAD & NABOH/# Berlin Homes

COA agrees to help Fire Department encourage Berlin residents to post numbers

 Fire Department able to put numbers up for seniors; cost/details TBD

Wellness clinic to resume Thursday 9/2/21 10am at Town Hall- 1x/mo, and increase 2x/mo after flu season

1. Montachusett’s Home Care/Nashoba Valley Neighbors

Due to shortage and catchment area, there is difficulty getting support via Montachusett

Nashoba Valley Neighbors is a non-profit that will offer in-home help

Services will begin to be publicized the end of this year

1. Presentation with expanding COA

With around 30% of Berlin Residents being seniors, the COA is requesting to expand budget/support

There is a need for expanding programs, available hours, transportation, legal, housing, etc.

Victoria is meeting with the board Tuesday 9/7/21. COA receives <1% of the town budget

**Next Meeting scheduled for Tues September 28, 2021, 4:00 p.m.**

* Meeting adjourned at 5:29 p.m.