MINUTES OF COUNCIL OF AGING MEETING via ZOOM

November 24, 2020

Attendance: COA Members Bob Blair, Chairman, Pat Wheeler, Karen Schultz, Rachel Boyer, COA Director Victoria Flynn; Guests were: Margaret Nartowicz, TA; Police Chief Thomas Galvin; Berlin Seniors Louise Janda, Judy Mills

Chairman Bob Blair called the meeting to order at 4:08 p.m. via ZOOM meeting due to COVID

1. Roll Call
2. Vote to accept COA meeting minutes from 10/25/2020 meeting - unanimous
3. Welcoming of new COA member Rachel Boyer
4. Financial updates –

PT wage = $1959.36 for Victoria

Donations = $45.00 and Amazon Kindle

Expenses = $416.81 (gas for van, PHN postage, yoga and mileage for meals on wheels

\* Van needs service – should all be under warranty; check tire pressure sensor needs replacement

1. Wellness checks/calls to seniors to resume

-Chief Galvin presented on how to make sure residents are okay; anyone can call police dispatch

-Victoria working on procedures/protocols for wellness checks on seniors; there was a recent concerns about a wellness call and how happened

-there are increases problems this time of year for seniors which are exacerbated by COVID

1. Yoga, Tai-chi, van

-Yoga through last Sat 11/21

-No scheduled yoga or Tai-chi due to COVID

-Van is running 3-5 days for medical appt’s, grocery store, pharmacy – “necessity runs”

usually 8/8:30 until about 3:30, but flexible case-by-case

1. Calling Seniors

- To resume calling seniors; have 2 new volunteers to help with calls (about 30 volunteers total)

- Lists to be distributed; Bob to create cover letter

- To allow seniors to reject future calls

1. COVID Food Project

-Margaret has requested help

-Coordinating with local restaurants to get food to homebound seniors

-Home delivered meals or groceries – want to do this by end of year

1. Lasagna Lovers

- Organization that makes lasagna’s for people in need

- Victoria to organize a meeting (Bob, Pat, Rachel to help)

1. Berlin Seniors Update (Bob, Judy, Louise)

- Working on Holiday Light Contest and Twinkle Tour; calling businesses for contributions ($25-$100)

-Sign up by Nov 30th for Twinkle Tour

-There will be a map of houses participating

-Need assist wit posting signs; 12/19 will be deadline to vote

1. Powder House News

-Submission by Dec 13th; Bio from Rachel; COA emergency numbers to be listed again

-19 Carter, Nashoba Neighbors, Berlin Seniors, Fire Chief to have submissions

-? New features of “Who, What, Where” informational piece

-Fuel Assistance, Senior Self Care

1. End of Year Updates

-Capital Budget Request Submitted

-? To explore senior center – survey

-Victoria working on annual report

1. Other business – Durable Medical Equipment

-Victoria has started an excel spreadsheet to track DME; also tracking who is calling and for what

1. Next Meeting scheduled for Tues December 29, 2020 4:00 p.m.

* Meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.