Minutes for Council on Aging Meeting – March 25, 2015

In attendance: Jim Connor, Joyce LaMotte, Fran Gill, Lori Fearebay, Karen Shultz.

Before the meeting was opened, Bob McTague, from the 1870 Town Hall Advisory Committee, asked for some time to share information about the elevator they hope to build. The committee has submitted a warrant for town meeting asking for $ 850,000 to build an elevator and to make required changes to accommodate handicapped people in the 1870 Town Hall. The building is used regularly by residents and outside groups for meetings, plays, social activities, etc. but without handicap access to the Great Hall, attendance at many functions is restricted to able bodied people. About $ 70,000 of that money would be to update to the required handicap code. The rest is for restructuring the parking area, removing the existing Historic Society storage building and adding a foundation for a new building and building an elevator that can accommodate a gurney as well as wheelchairs. He handed out the architects drawings of the proposed additions.

Meeting was opened at 9:05

Treasurers Report: Town Account: $ 2,300 – Formula Grant $ 5,141.07 – Beet Grant $ 445.34 –

Meals on Wheel and donations from programs: $ 4,964.94.

Joyce shared her frustration with the town accounting system, being very different from the business accounting she is familiar with and with her desire to form a Friends of Berlin COA group. We encouraged her to stay with the treasurers’ job until she figures it out and is able to train someone else.

Old Business: Progress on our capital expense request. Next steps needed. (the bus) Joyce.

Joyce had a photo and some information about the type of van we would like to purchase. The warrant request is for $ 30,000.00 from the mitigation money from Highland Commons. The van would have a wheelchair lift and accommodate 8 people. It would be housed at the town offices or another town owned property. Insurance would be covered by the town’s blanket policy. Maintenance, fuel and registration fees would be paid out of COA funds. The drivers and a dispatcher would be volunteers with the possibility of using the work off program.

New Business:

1. Establishing a Friends of Berlin COA group. Joyce would like to form such a group. In discussion we agreed that a Friends group would be advisable because they could raise money to be spent for COA purposes and buy or pay for items from their checking account without submitting a warrant through the town. It would also allow more people who have an interest in the Council on Aging to be active in it. We need to look for someone to form such a group.

2. Receipts for Joyce from anyone? One warrant to be signed for BMW (Berlin Meal Wagon).

3. Production of a trifold brochure highlighting our services. Joyce. Lori will work with Joyce to develop it.

4. Medical equipment inventory and policies update. Lori. One commode is on loan. Lori is looking into getting rid of the optical machine and the H2o tank. She thinks the rescue squad may be able to take the tank.

5. Current enrollment in Meals on Wheels. Changes? There are nine people receiving meals twice a week. In discussion, it was shared that as many as 25 meals were packed and delivered to residents from the Senior Luncheon. Lori motioned that the name be changed to “The Berlin Meal Wagon” because we cannot use the Meals on Wheels name anymore, it is now a registered trademark. The motion was seconded by Fran and passed unanimously.

6. Do we want to think about a different venue for our Volunteer Luncheon? Joyce passed out a flyer for a new restaurant called Fortini’s. (formerly Sylvesters and other names) Fortini’s menu was discussed as was the Hudson Portuguese Club, suggested by Jim. No motion was offered.

7. Partnership with 19 Carter as a meeting place and joint cooperation on activities. The Health Fair will be held at 19 Carter in November.

8. Nominating committee for slate of officers for next year. Terms expiring this year for three members. Karen, who replaced Ken Harrold will be re-appointed to a 3 year term.

Motion to adjourn: 10:05 by Joyce Seconded by: Lori

Next meeting is April 29th