**Pelham Council on Aging • Jan. 12, 2022 • 2:00 PM • Via Zoom**

**Call to order: 2:02 p.m.**

**Members and guests present:** Tracy Osbahr, Nancy Rose Weeber, Grace Dane, Isabel Ryavec, Jane Porter, Pelham Outreach Worker Sally Kaufmann, and Police Chief Gary Thomann

**Conversation with Police Chief Gary Thomann:** Discussion included concerns about identity theft that specifically targets seniors and the COA's role in preparing for various weather and other emergencies that could impact seniors. The COA will continue to supply Pelham police and fire personnel with COA info and contact cards, to be offered to Pelham citizens.

**TRIAD/S.A.L.T. meeting info:** Tracy reported on the December 14, 2021 TRIAD monthly meeting she attended at the Amherst Police Station; she plans to attend future monthly meetings.

**Warrant:** $25 Tom Terault (food delivery);$120 Sally Kaufmann; $25.99 Nancy Rose Weeber (gift for Kathy Martell in recognition of her long service to the COA). **Total $170.99**

**Review of previous meeting minutes:** Motion to accept December 8, 2021 minutes as written: aye Tracy Osbahr, aye Grace Dane, aye Isabel Ryavec.

**Plans for activity offerings in upcoming months:**

Plans for all in-person gatherings deferred until covid subsides. Possible future offerings under consideration: life-story writing, scam-alert info session, computer help, book discussion group(s).

**Pelham Budget Roundtable Meeting:** During lengthy discussion about best use of ARPA funds and our COA budget, council members voted to request level-funding for FY 22-23. Aye Tracy Osbahr, aye Nancy Rose Weeber, aye Grace Dane, aye Isabel Ryavec.

**Old Business:**

Three council members have completed LGBTQI training.

**New Business:**

**• Outreach Worker Sally Kaufmann** is actively providing info and guidance for Pelham seniors who seek help with issues such as transportation and/or caregiver support, and she continues to refer them, as needed, to appropriate agencies (e.g., Amherst Neighbors, Highland Valley, Way Finders).

**• January Letter for Pelham Seniors**: Members agreed to draft a January letter to Pelham seniors that would include COA contact info, Amherst Neighbors info and offerings, area covid-testing and covid-vax sites, N95 mask info, including where to purchase, and a LifePath flyer highlighting virtual-offerings on a variety of health issues. Access to a current (and frequently updated) senior mailing list is needed to facilitate future mailings. Plan includes drafting a letter for group input, preparation of final letter, and scheduling a date to label envelopes for posting.

**• Nancy attended the January 11 *Aging in Place*** session sponsored by PVPC's Age Friendly Pioneer Valley, whose focus on AARP's challenge to towns to become age & dementia friendly designations includes strategies & best practices to make communities safe and welcoming for people of all ages and abilities. Several PVPC representatives summarized home modification loan programs and funds available for seniors who wish to remain in their homes. Additional topics included transportation needs, social initiatives, internet access, and in-home services currently available. Representatives from three local village-to-village communities (Amherst, Northampton, Easthampton) shared frustration that covid has seriously limited what neighborhood groups can offer.

**Next COA meeting will be on Feb 9, 2022 at 2 p.m. (via Zoom)**

**Adjourned: 4 p.m.**

Submitted by Nancy Rose Weeber