

Holland Council on Aging Meeting

Holland Community Center
40 Brimfield Road
Holland, Massachusetts

Minutes of Meeting – November 13, 2018

Meeting called to order at 10:20 by Chris Haller, *Chairperson*.

Board members in attendance: Christine Haller, *Chairperson*; Tina Rootes-Hunter, *Vice Chairperson*; Linda Racine, *Secretary*; Cindi Harris, *Member*; John Senseman, *Member*; Allan Percy, *Member*.

Absent:

Other: Jennifer Mott, *Outreach Coordinator*; Brenda Palmer, *Center Director*; Jean Bleeker, *prospective member*; Pam Sweny, *prospective member*.

Secretary's Report

Meeting Minutes read by Tina Rootes-Hunter.

Minutes were amended to include discussion of Domestic Abuse.

Motion to accept the minutes of the last meeting as ammended by Cindi Harris.

Second by John Senseman.

Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report

Country Bank sent a donation of \$2000.00 which was deposited in the COA Gift Account.

Jennifer Mott will send a thank you letter.

Treasurer's Report Filed.

Outreach Report

Applications for fuel assistance are still being accepted. So far 20 people have been approved with a cap of \$900 to \$1100 each.

COA conference was amazing. Jen and Brenda learned about available resources. Jen is getting to know people and providing information to them by having a cup of coffee with them. The goal is to share 100 cups of coffee a year. Jen has had 3 visits so far.

The Friends donated \$100 for Trunk or Treat gift bags. Jen gave them out and gave out business cards to parents and grandparents at the event.

Jen is working with the police department to get a locked drug take back container that will be available year round. Costs and location are being researched.

Jen is reviewing the list of seniors in town and has sent letters to the eldest seniors.

Director/Coordinator's Report

The in house meal preparation program will begin in January. Meals will be \$3.00 for eat in and \$5.00 for takeout to encourage everyone to stay, eat and socialize. Brenda will have a new account set up to manage the finances.

Brenda is reaching out to surrounding towns to discuss forming a regional area dedicated to Age Friendly and Dementia Friendly towns.

Brenda has reached out to Tantasqua to talk about forming an Intergenerational United Nations with the students and local seniors.

Director's Report Filed.

Old Business**Senior Housing**

An open meeting was held on October 17 to discuss the purchase of the Sichol property. The Finance Board, Open Space Committee, Select Board, Trails Committee and Opacum attended. Opacum will raise \$500,000 for the open space portion of the project. The total cost of the 20 acre commercial portion of the land is \$250,000. This portion can be used for Senior Housing, a library, or other uses. The Finance Board is concerned about the cost and suggested selling 3 one acre lots to defray the cost. The Trails Committee will set up walks to educate people about the value of the project.

SAFE Grant

The carbon monoxide detectors that the town bought are not being installed in homes. Jen will discuss the matter with the fire chief and the police. Brenda will ask them to do a safety presentation at the Center.

Formula Grant

The grant has been completed for \$6000.00 and submitted.

Transportation

The weekly shopping trip cannot be changed from Monday to Friday because Friday is the busiest day for the Elderbus.

COA Members

Chris Bleaker and Pam Sweny are interested in becoming members of the COA board. They need to attend one more meeting before they can be appointed.

Memory Café

An Alzheimer's group will come to the center to help us learn about dementia friendly practices.

There will be a Christmas Past event held on December 17 at 11 am. Participants will share memories, read stories, make ornaments and listen to Christmas music from the past.

Domestic Abuse

There are no dates for the workshops yet. Stop Abuse meetings are held once a month on Fridays. Stop Abuse is working on a palm pamphlet with fold out business cards with resources for abuse victims. Presentations will be planned next year for abuse awareness. Pamphlets in restrooms, etc. need to be updated.

New Business

Center Director's Requests

Motion to approve up to \$600 from the COA Gift Account to purchase a new computer and monitor for the Center by Linda Racine.

Second by Cindi Harris.

Motion passed.

Motion to approve \$100.00 for Tammy Casavant to sing in December by Tina Rootes-Hunter.

Second by Cindi Harris.

Motion passed.

A vendor at the COA conference says we should have one hearing assisted device for every 25 people at the center. The cost of the system would be \$1000.00. Brenda will research for next month.

Budget FY20

The newsletter is costing us more than the revenue from the ads. There are companies that will print it for free, but will insert advertising.

WWII Veteran Speaking Presentation

Linda will contact him to get more information and Brenda will call to arrange a presentation.

A Connections article will be added to the newsletter offering time with a Center employee or volunteer. Volunteers are needed to be connectors.

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Tina Rootes-Hunter.

Second by Cindi Harris.

Motion passed.

Meeting was adjourned by Chris Haller, Chairperson, at 11:55 am.

Next COA meeting Tuesday, December 11, 2018 at 10:15 am at Holland Community Center.