

Millbury COA  
Meeting Minutes  
December 13, 2023  
7:32 am

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TOWN CLERK  
2024 JAN 24 AM 9:10  
MILLBURY, MASS.

Members In Attendance: Steve Walinsky, Ronald Marlborough, Nancy Pratt, Laurie Corkery, Kevin Higginbottom Laurie Keefe, Director Joshua Ryan Program Administrator. Absent Stuart Mulhane and Ginny Picking.

MINUTES: Motion to accept minutes for October 18, 2023 by Ronald Marlborough seconded by Kevin Higginbottom.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY: Terry Burk Dotson commented that she was upset the bathrooms at the Senior Center were not open until 4:30 the day of Chain of lights. She also advised the marshmallows for the hot chocolate were hard. Ms. Corkey accepted her comments to be taken under advisement.

CORRESPONDENCE: none

DIRECTORS REPORT: Ms. Keefe advised the board that we have hired a new a new driver and there is one more open position.

Outreach- There has been an increase in outreach. Most of the increase is due to inflation and the high cost of utilities, food and healthcare. Full assistance appointments are being done by appointment. Open enrollment ended on December 7<sup>th</sup>. We filled all the appointment slots and them some. The contract with Snap and DTA was renewed on December 11<sup>th</sup>.

Senior Center usage- Lions club is still using the Senior Center on the first Monday of every month. The police department will be holding a pinning ceremony at the Senior Center on December 29<sup>th</sup>.

Program and Activities- Thanksgiving dinner was made and served by staff. 91 meals were served. 15 meals were delivered. We also made 30 Thanksgiving baskets. Chain of Lights was successful. We had a hot chocolate bar, the dancers from H&H performed and we had Mr. Kim the puppeteer. Zumba is a huge hit. The class is full every week. We will be kicking off the Municipal department series in January starting with the town clerk.

The food pantry has been receiving some very generous donations. The Mill Church, the Q radio station, and Upper Blackstone Clean Water held food drives for the food pantry. Care one provided all the stuffing and cranberry sauce for the Thanksgiving baskets that we gave out. We received a grant from the Executive Office of Elder Affairs- Hybrid programming in the amount of \$29,517.60. One of the uses of this grant will be college classes designed for interested seniors. In collaboration with Assumption University, up to 20 seniors may enroll in the program that will be a hybrid of presentations by professors, either in person or zoom format on the computer. More information will be forthcoming as details are worked out.

Laurie and Josh are looking into 2 DOT grants to see if they are a good fit for the Senior Center. The annual Christmas party will be held on December 20<sup>th</sup>. Laurie and Josh will be making a ham dinner and there will be entertainment by Matt Brouder. All town buildings will be closing at 12:30 on December 14<sup>th</sup> for the employee holiday gathering. Laurie has given the board the stats for October and November as well as last year's stats for comparison. The WRTA transportation program is successful. The WRTA reported 537 rides given during the month of October.

The use of "My Senior Center" card swipe system has doubled to 549 swiped in October from 274 last year. It reflects very positive growth.

#### STANDING REPORTS

- A. Budget and Finance – Ms. Keefe has told the board that she has had her first budget meeting on Monday. Even though participation at the center is increasing, level funding may be feasible.
- B. PERSONNEL: A new driver was hired.
- C. Board Membership- There are no open seats currently.
- D. Legislation affecting Seniors: SNAP is trying to make it easier for seniors to get benefits.
- E. Senior Center Usage- The Lions Club will be using the Senior Center on the first Monday of every month to hold their monthly meetings. The police department will be holding a pinning ceremony at the Senior Center on December 29<sup>th</sup>.
- F. Monthly report of program participation- Programs are continuing to grow and part of the \$29,517.60 previously mentioned will be used for additional program development.
- G. Building Maintenance/ Equipment- The fire chief should be coming this week to test the fire alarms. Mark Hollis has implemented new software to track assets and maintenance. We are in the process of getting all assets and schedules into the software. We are waiting for quotes to come back for replacing the furnaces. We have found a dishwasher that will fit in the kitchen. We will also need a grease trap installed. We are getting quotes.
- H. Friends of the Millbury Seniors Report: attached.
- I. Elder Services of Worcester Area/ Nutrition Program: 95+ meals are going out a day for meals on wheels.
- J. Intergenerational Programs: There will be a high school student coming in on December 27<sup>th</sup> to play the piano for the seniors during lunch. The NHS has reached out to the Senior Center about doing another sock hop in March or April.
- K. Elder Community Service Program: We are continuing to have people come in and get applications for the tax work off program.
- L. Memory Café: Julie will be doing cookie decorating for the December memory café.
- M. Annual Obligations: None

#### NEW BUSINESS:

1. Monthly Newsletter distribution- The mailing list continues to grow. We are mailing about 600 newsletters a month.
2. Plaque identifying Sr. Center as P/W railroad depot- Steve suggest we look into getting a plaque for the Senior Center similar to the one describing the railroad depot at 19 Canal Street.
3. OLD BUSINESS: New Friday hours- The Senior Center is now open until 2 on Fridays. There has not been much activity at the Senior Center after 1. We will continue to monitor how many people come in on Fridays.
4. After discussion, it was agreed that the January meeting should include a meeting with the representatives of the Friends of the Millbury Seniors to re-establish and formalize a working relationship.

Next meeting is January 17<sup>th</sup>.

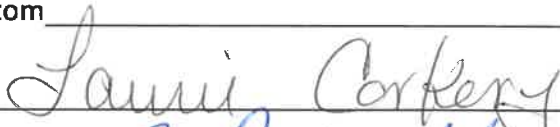
Steve Walinsky



Stuart Mulhane

Kevin Higginbottom

Laurie Corkery



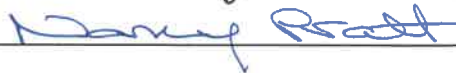
Ronald Marlborough



Ginny Picking



Nancy Pratt



Respectfully submitted:

Joshua Ryan, Program Administrator