

## COA Minutes - December 13, 2023

Meeting called to order at 11:00 A.M.

Approved: November 11, 2023 minutes

Present: Polly Ryan, Coordinator, Shirley Todd, Sue Honneus, Bonnie Phillips, and Mary Potter

### **Coordinator Update**

Discussed the progress of the HCDC Driver Pool program. Two new drivers have been hired. With the submission of the first invoice for the grant, 1/4 of the funds have been spent. In order to keep up to date on the program, Polly has requested to be included in emails about the project. She wants to foster better communication between the project manager and herself since she is managing the grant money.

We did not get the MOCA grant for the Farm to Table proposal which involved another collaboration with Earthdance. We were in competition with many other requests for grants on this round but will re-apply with the same proposal next year.

We have met the quota for grant money for our December Covid inoculation clinic, with 14 people registering. COA has Covid test kits available, as does the Board of Health.

We need to promote the newly designed Northern Hilltown Consortium website. Their calendar lists events for seniors in every town of the consortium.

Polly has been accepted on the HVES (Highland Valley Elder Services) board and will attend her first meeting in January.

We need to set a date for LGBTQ+ training.

The Consortium now has forms to officially request free internet hook-up, equipment, and discounted internet service provided through the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP).

We need to discuss "Critical Binders" in a future meeting. Goshen and Chesterfield are both doing this.

The COA/Earthdance program for exercise followed by lunch has been a big success, with 12-15 participants for each session. COA will continue to subsidize lunch at \$5 per person and rental space at \$20 per week.

COA sponsored holiday concert featuring Laura Wetzler, accompanied by Jim Armenia, was very successful. Polly augmented the original fee of \$400 with another \$100 from the donations, since Laura paid her accompanist from her own pocket. The remaining \$78 collected went toward the \$100 cleaning fee for the church.

## **Programming**

January exercise class at Earthdance

We might get a representative from Triad to speak after our January luncheon. Triad has many benefits for seniors, including free identifying numbers for houses, locked boxes for homes, and File of Life documents with your medical information to display on home refrigerators for first responders.

Polly has dropped Dancing with Polly and Memory Support Group and has re-imagined how she can individually help anyone in need. Now called "Coffee Hour with Polly", her services and advice will be one-on-one. Anyone needing help or guidance can call her at 413-212-1581 or email her at [pryan@town.plainfield.ma.us](mailto:pryan@town.plainfield.ma.us)

## **Luncheon Assignments**

### **January**

Polly - ham, roasted root veggies.

Sue and Bonnie - mac and cheese.

Shirley - broccoli.

Mary - dessert; rolls in freezer.

### **February**

Polly - beef chili.

Shirley - veggie chili.

Sue - salad, bought pies.

Mary – broccoli, cornbread

### **March –**

corned beef, cabbage (we will ask Linda Carver if she would cook it again this year);

Polly - vinegar, horseradish;

Shirley - veggie casserole;

Sue - soda bread,

Mary - dessert

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Potter