

COA Minutes - February 14, 2024

Meeting called to order at 11:30 AM

Present: Polly Ryan, Shirley Todd, and Mary Potter

Approved January 17, 2024 minutes

Coordinator Updates

HCDC Driver Pool Program - A news release about the program was published in The Country Journal (January 18, 2024, edition) and The Reminder has interviewed Joan Griswold (project director) and other project participants about the program. An article will be forthcoming. The first invoice for the grant has been paid; the second invoice is about to be processed. We have reached the midpoint disbursement of the grant.

Polly will be meeting with Earthdance to explore a different route to getting grant money for the Farm to Table program - the 2024 AARP Community Challenge Grant (deadline March 6). The back-to-back, four-hour weekly sessions would be comprised of two hours of hands-on garden work and instruction and two hours of cooking and eating the bounty from the garden. The program would run for 17 weeks.

We need to remind everyone that COVID test kits are available through the Board of Health and the COA.

Polly has attended her first Highland Valley Elder Services (HVES) board meeting as our COA representative but hasn't yet decided which subcommittee she will choose. She will investigate the details of the HVES food program. They have their own kitchen and prepare meals every day.

Polly missed the February Consortium meeting so as to attend the MCOA (Massachusetts Council on Aging) Transportation SIG (service incentive grant) check-in and found out what other communities are doing with this program.

Earthdance exercise and lunch program continues through March with approximately 10 exercise participants and 6 coming for lunch.

The EOEI annual report is due February 16; the Annual Town Report is due in March.

Polly is considering running for the Plainfield select board.

Programming

So far, there have been no responses to the Multi-generational Sharing Club.

Tim Van Egmond will perform a St. Patrick's Day show of Irish songs, stories, and poems following our March 13th luncheon. This event is funded mainly by the Plainfield Cultural

Council with a subsidy of \$135 from our COA. Van Egmond is a popular performer, and this show promises to be very well-received. We might need a larger space for the performance if many people show up.

The date for our trip to the Clark Art Institute is March 29th. Admission is free and COA will pay the \$15 cost per person for lunch at their cafe.

The Alzheimer's Association will host the annual Virtual New England Family Conference on March 1 and 2 from 9:30 - 2 PM. Polly will show it on the big screen at the Town Hall and provide lunch for anyone who would like to attend.

A Summit to Fight Fraud will be held March 19, 9 -3 PM, at the UMass Ballroom. Representatives from the police and DA's office will speak. Breakfast is included. Polly plans to attend this meeting.

Future luncheons: April - lamb and potatoes - Polly; Veggie - Shirley; bread - Bonnie; salad - Sue; dessert - Mary

Respectively submitted,
Mary Potter