

Blandford Council on Aging
Meeting of the Board of Directors
Minutes of the Meeting, February 8, 2016

Present: Margit Mikuski, Linda Barnard, Judy MacKinnon, Mary Brainerd, Barbara Langmore

Absent:

Meeting convened at 4:10 pm

Minutes of the January meeting

- Discussion of the process of taking minutes, as well as using a tape recorder in order for the minutes to be as accurate as possible. All agreed to the use of the recorder.
- Minutes were read, amended, and motion to accept was made by Linda and seconded by Barbara. January minutes accepted.

Treasurer's Report

- Discussion of YMCA billing. Monday exercise class is paid in advance. Wednesday's class is paid at the end of each session.
- Report was read and motion to accept was made by Judy and seconded by Barbara. Treasurer's Report accepted.

New Business

- **Consortium Update**
 1. Website training was postponed and rescheduled for February 19th.
- **Selectboard Meeting**
 1. Barb, Linda, Judy and Margit attended the meeting to let the board know of the COA's interest in being part of the planning of a possible YMCA pre-school at the town hall. We offered to be a part of the program in some way, as well. We are not opposed to the moving of our room as long as we can have a similar set-up and our materials and furniture moved, as necessary.
 2. We discussed the idea of attending monthly meetings to be sure we have first hand knowledge of the agenda of meetings and have input, as well.
 3. We set a schedule for member attendance. Each board member would attend meetings for a month and the meeting report would be a part of our monthly agenda.

February and March - Linda

April - Barbara

May - Judy

June - Mary

July - Margit

4. Linda made a motion that board members would alternate attending selectboard meetings each month and the report will be on our agenda each month. Judy seconded. Motion passed.
- **Civil War Ballroom Grant**
 1. Josephine Sarnelli, from Small Planet Dancers, applied for a grant and it was approved. We chose the Civil War Ballroom program was what we chose to present.
 2. We had thought about July 9th for the performance, but that will not work for the dance group. We will check their open dates.
 3. We can check out the performance and group at www.smallplanetdancers.com
 4. Sue Racine would like to work with us as we plan. We hope to include the Historical Society, too.
 - **Arbor Day/Earth Day**
 1. We will check in with Chuck Benson from the Park and Recreation Committee to ask if we could fit into the planned children's program for Earth Day.
 2. Margit has been checking with Leon Ripley about buying saplings to pass out to children with directions for planting after the program that day.
 3. Judy thinking about ways to highlight the history of trees native to early Blandford.
 - **Library/Audio Books**
 1. The library has received a small grant and wanted ideas. Our seniors suggested audio books and large print books.
 2. We discussed having a small library of audiobooks that are recent. We would keep books inside room on shelves.
 3. Discussion of food donations came up. We are thinking about how this might work on a small scale.
 - **Report from Hazardous Training meeting** – postponed to Thursday, February 11th. Judy will attend this time.
 - **Community Garden** – Linda has contacted Westfield Technical Academy and Smith Vocational about helping with the garden. Westfield said they would help with winter clean-up and possibly help build raised beds. She is waiting to hear back.
 - **Trip to Ripley's** – checking dates for annual pancake outing.
 - **Walk in Stanley Park** – MCOA website in early June– Mary is looking into a date. We will pace out a flat 1 mile walk.
 - **Donations** –
 1. \$1,207 so far
 2. We will set goals for the money collected. We did point out what money was to be used for on form we sent out to the town.
 3. Purchasing a solar light to be placed at the top the town flag to be donated in memory of town Veterans at the Memorial Day Ceremony

was discussed. Linda has been looking into the cost and details (around \$300). Judy made a motion to investigate this idea with the selectboard and confirm the price. Barbara seconded and the motion passed. Linda will go forward at the next selectboard meeting.

Old Business

- **Valentine's Day** – menu will include pizza (2 party pizzas) from the Russell Inn to be delivered and Valentine Cupcake Cake. We will set up at 12:30.
- **Policies and Procedures for emergencies** – Margit had handouts from other towns for us to look at before we go forward.
- **CPR Training** – date we want is Friday afternoon, March 18th, Margit is checking.
- **Cara email**- walking in town for seniors? We will read and respond.
- **Wednesday Exercise Class** - \$55 behind at this time. New people have been coming to the last 2 sessions.

Other New Business – Friday, February 26th breakfast will include pancakes and sausage. Linda will pick up fruit from Costco (pineapple and watermelon?) We will set up at 8:30 am.

Linda made a motion to adjourn and Mary seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 6:45 pm