

Blandford Council on Aging
Meeting of the Board of Directors
Minutes of the Meeting, March 9, 2016

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

Absent:

Meeting convened at 4:00 pm

Minutes of the February meeting were read and motion to accept was made by Linda and seconded by Barbara. February minutes accepted.

Treasurer's Report

- We continue to wait for information from Janet concerning corrections.
- Report was read and motion to accept was made by Judy and seconded by Barbara. Treasurer's report accepted.

New Business

- **Consortium Update**
 1. Phil has been given the okay to move forward as our outreach worker. He is asking for guidelines and priorities. The grant money may be extended to the next fiscal year. We are hopeful.
 2. We will set a date for a meeting with Phil to let him know his priority for Blandford should be visits with our seniors to become aware of their needs. We have a list of names to update.
- **Report on meeting with the selectboard**
 1. **Hazard Mitigation – Pioneer Valley Planning spokesperson** spoke at the public meeting to explain the process of putting together a plan for town emergencies. Next public meeting will be April 4th, after committee meeting on March 24th.
 2. **New Ambulance Company** presented their plan to selectboard to consider in place of the one we now have. 24/7 coverage would be possible.
 3. **Light on town flag** is already in place. We need another project to honor veterans. We discussed a light on flag in Watson Park. We would need permission from Historical Commission. We could replace flags placed on poles in town. Does the legion do it? Do the boy scouts do it? Linda is checking the price of flags at the Home Show. Used Capitol flags could be purchased. Linda will be checking on this.
 4. **Focus Group Meeting on Surveys on Rural Transportation** will be held at Russell Town Hall on March 22nd. Mary cannot attend. She will try to make the next meeting.
 5. Mary Brainerd will be stepping down on September 1st from the board since she will be teaching more classes in the fall. Discussion took place about replacing a board member.

6. Linda brought information on drinking water for health. We will include it in our next newsletter, share with the consortium, as well as put it on the bulletin board.

Old Business

- **Earth Day meeting** – Chips Norcross, Chuck Benson, Cara Letendre, and Margit met to discuss the idea of making the community garden the focus of the day's activities on April 23rd. COA would be willing to hand out saplings to children with directions for planting. Chuck would cut parts for birdhouses for children to put together and paint. Chuck could buy wood to make 4 raised beds (4 x 8). (Linda has been in contact with Westfield Technical Academy. They agreed to clean up the berry bush area. Linda will try to have them commit to us for next year.) Linda knows a forester who has someone who may be able to give us saplings. Work will be done on the shed out back and other work ideas throughout the day. Linda made a motion that the COA donate hamburgers, hot dogs, and rolls for a cookout that day, as well as to purchase the saplings. Barb seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passed.
- **Trip to Ripley's** for breakfast on March 26th, Saturday. We will meet at 10 am at Ripley's. Anyone can call for a ride.
- **CPR Training** – still have not heard
- **Hazardous Training Survey** – will hand out Tuesday at St. Patty's Dinner
- **St Patrick's Day dinner** – There was much discussion about desserts. Some discussion took place about bread. We decided on different rye breads. We will set up at 4 pm the Monday before dinner. We talked about catering in the future?
- **Food Bank** – we decided that a food bank would be too time consuming for us at this time.
- **Women's Shelter** – Mary suggested that we focus on one or two items at a time... monthly? This first time we will concentrate on bed sheets and pillowcases. We should put the box in the foyer. We will put an article in CJ and on Facebook.
- **Movie** – Spy - Linda will unlock the room before movie for Co.
- **Emergency Management kits** – we discussed adding 50 foil blankets and 50 solar crank radios. Tom Ackley offered to provide money from the Fire Department to fill our kits for the first round. Linda made a motion to go forward to purchase radios and blankets and Judy seconded. The motion passed.
- **Chairs to be ordered**- 6 chairs to be ordered.
- **Take out containers** will be purchased in order to send home dinners to shut-ins.
- **Walk** – Mary will talk with Heidi Taberman to see if she is willing to make a commitment to help plan and attend the walk at Stanley Park. Then, a date will be set.
- **Exercise class** - Y payment for Wednesday night class is due.
- Judy made a motion to adjourn and Barbara seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 5:45 pm.