



TOWN OF BLANDFORD

Council on Aging
1 Russell Stage Road
Blandford, MA 01008

**MEETING MINUTES
COUNCIL ON AGING
October 12, 2021**

1. Open Session at 1:00 pm

In Attendance: Margit Mikuski, Director; Heidi Taberman, Member; Bob Twyman, Member; Pat Lombardo, Member-absent; Barbara Langmore, Member; Joann Martin, Member

1. EXAMINATION OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS:

a. Examination of the Meeting Minutes of September 12, 2021

MOTION: Heidi Taberman made a motion to accept the meeting minutes of September 12, 2021 as written
Bob Twyman Seconded
All in Favor

2. BUDGET REPORT (10 min):

a. Budget Report

1. Director, Mikuski, went over the budget activity from the COA Revolving fund, State Formula Grant and COA Account income explaining each entry to Council members.
2. Mikuski gave Taberman the go-ahead to purchase more exercise equipment for the Monday morning exercise class
3. Mikuski covered the State Formula Grant and what it can be spent on.
4. Mikuski spoke about hiring a clerical assistant which COA does not employ at this time but there are funds in the budget. She has sent a request to the State to see if COA can use State Grant monies.

MOTION: Joann Martin made a motion to accept the Director's Budget Report
Barbara Langmore Seconded
All in Favor

3. OLD BUSINESS:

a. Veteran's Day Dinner

Mikuski asked if the Board will have this function catered or take care of this in-house. Joann Martin has volunteered to take the lead preparing this meal with help from the Board. The dinner will be Saturday, November 13, 2021 in the Town Hall Gymnasium. Joann and Margit will discuss the menu. This dinner is free to veterans and donations are accepted from others.

b. November and December Happenings

Mikuski brought up that our November breakfast is scheduled for the day after Thanksgiving and December's scheduled breakfast falls on Christmas Eve. The Board decided that November and December breakfasts will be eliminated due to holidays.

4. NEW BUSINESS:

a. discussion on Meeting with Tammy Weidhaas, Police Chief

Bob Twyman reported on the meeting with Margit's and Blandford's Police Chief.

1. The Chief is working on a program to have seniors sign up so a representative from the police department would check on seniors once per day. This would just be a quick phone call to see if the senior is okay and will be repeated the following day.
2. The Chief is also working on a program where the number of the houses are installed on the tree belt in front of houses as many house in Blandford are not visible from the street and this would assist emergency crews in locating when a 911 call is made.
3. The Chief has just installed a safe mounted to the wall in the Police Station office where residents can deposit old medications and used needles.
4. Reflective vests will be made available to those who enjoy walking to ensure their safety.
5. Dementia/Autism alert form program. This program would allow residents to identify those in their household that are dealing with dementia or autism, etc. The first responders would find this information extremely valuable to their approach when a 911 call is received.

b. Discussion on Dementia Friendly

Mikuski reported on the one-day workshop on Friends for Dementia which many volunteers and employees for the Town of Blandford participated. Blandford is working on becoming a dementia friendly community. Judy MacKinnon and Mikuski have signed up for the state meeting geared toward dementia transportation and learning how to transport these residents.

c. Discussion on Grant Application for new COA Van

Mikuski spoke of the ARPA Fund program where Blandford has been awarded approximated \$350,000 to be used for qualified projects within the Town. Mikuski is presenting a quote for a new van to be used for transporting residents. This van would be handicap accessible. Mikuski is also looking into hiring a qualified driver for this van.

d. Discussion on Bay State Health Grant for Broadband

1. Mikuski spoke about the grant from the state that covered the \$99 installation for Broadband for seniors which was a success. We now have another grant from Bay State Health. This grant would supply I-Pads to the senior population based on income. She believes that most seniors in Blandford would not qualify for the Federal low-income guide lines, so this is up in the air at this time.
2. The Board talked about having an informational meeting toward the end of November which would be open to the whole town to explain all the different things you can do with internet services; ordering groceries, Registry of Motor Vehicles, renewing licenses, tele-health, facetimeing with family or friends and the dangers of using the internet, etc.

MOTION: Joann Martin made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:15 pm.

B. Twyman Seconded

All in Favor

The next COA Meeting will be November 8, 2021 at 1:00 pm

Meeting Minutes Presented by Joann Martin, Member Council on Aging

Heidi Taberman, Member

Robert Twyman, Member

Barbara Langmore, Member

Joann Martin, Member

Pat Lombardo, Member