



TOWN OF BLANDFORD

Council on Aging  
1 Russell Stage Road  
Blandford, MA 01008

**MEETING MINUTES  
COUNCIL ON AGING  
March 07, 2022**

**1. Open Session at 1:00 pm**

**Meeting is recorded**

**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 November 08, 2021*

**MOTION:** Heidi Taberman made a motion to approve the Meeting Minutes of November 08, 2021, as written.

**B. Twyman Seconded**

**All in Favor**

**2. BUDGET REPORT (10 min):**

*a. Director's Budget Report*

Director Mikuski tabled her budget discussion until the April 4, 2022, Council on Aging meeting.

**3. OLD BUSINESS:**

The Board discussed the success of the Valentine's Day luncheon. Martin mentioned the attendance was up. The Board is guessing it was a combination of the mild weather and the fact that we have not been together for some time as a group. We look forward to more success.

**4. NEW BUSINESS:**

*a. Meeting with Select Board*

Mikuski spoke of joining the Select Board meeting this evening hoping she can bring them up to speed about what the COA has been working on recently. She will also talk about removing the safes in the gymnasium to allow more room for COA equipment.

*b. Sand Program*

The COA has been involved in this project in the past but had some difficulties getting the sand delivered. Mikuski just learned that the Hampden County Sheriff's Department is offering this service for any community in the Hampden County area. Mikuski collected names and phone numbers for those who are interested in this program.

*c. Are you Okay Program*

Mikuski and other members of the Board make wellness-check phone calls to Blandford seniors. These calls are meant to check in and offer any assistance, if needed. Local and State Police do these wellness checks as well.

*d. Meeting of Transportation Volunteers:*

Mikuski reported that this group will be meeting again soon to discuss the on-going COVID and health

restrictions. COA Transportation people should be knowledgeable in case of seizures, trained in CPR, know what safety measure to follow with non-vaccinated people, i.e. The Board is responsible for making sure non-vaccinated people are not in contact with high-risk people. The drivers will know how to deal with this situation keeping in mind that certain situations could put all at risk. Federal law still requires that drivers wear masks.

**e. Newsletter**

Mikuski is looking for ideas for the COA Newsletter. The members will consider and give suggestions. Twyman made several suggestions.

**f. Test Kits & Masks**

Mikuski suggested we advertise our monthly menu hoping the events will grow. Martin will take care of posting April’s menu on the COA website as well as the Blandford Neighbors and Friends website and compose and print flyers to be passed out at the COA functions.

**g. Golden Cane:**

The Board viewed and discussed Blandford’s “Golden Cane.” Mikuski reported that the State awarded aa Golden Cane to several communities in Massachusetts to recognize the most senior person in Town, however, Blandford was not one of them. This version Blandford COA holds was hand made by Blandford residents in good spirit. Mikuski would like this presented to Sumner Robbins as the eldest resident of Blandford. Twyman recommended we send the cane out to apply gold-leaf to the head to spruce it up, hang it in the COA room and present a plaque to the oldest resident. Twyman will investigate a place to apply gold-leaf.

**h. St. Patrick’s Day Luncheon**

The Board talked this up-coming luncheon, reviewing the menu for this event. The traditional meal will be corned beef, cabbage, red potatoes, carrots, Irish Soda Bread, Crème de Menthe cake and green lemonade.

**i. Exercise Equipment – Heidi Taberman**

Heidi Taberman, member of COA, reported the Monday, March 21, 2022, exercise class will not be held. The classes will be back to their regular schedule March 28 and going forward. Taberman inquired about investing in more exercise equipment. Mikuski approved this purchase.

Meeting Adjourned at 2:05 pm  
pm

The next COA Meeting will be Monday April 4, 2022, at 2:00

Meeting Minutes Presented by Joann Martin, Member Council on Aging

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Heidi Taberman, Member

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Robert Twyman, Member

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Barbara Langmore, Member

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Joann Martin, Member

Absent

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Pat Lombardo, Member

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Margit Mikuski, Director