



TOWN OF BLANDFORD
Council On Aging

Blandford Town Hall
1 Russell Stage Road, Suite 1
Blandford, MA 01008

**COUNCIL ON AGING
MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, September 19, 2023
6:00 pm**

Meeting Open at 6:05 pm

In Attendance: M. Mikuski, Director; B. Twyman, Member; B. Langmore, Member; P. Lombardo, Member; H. Taberman, Member–Absent; J. Martin, Chair

EXAMINATION OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

a. Examination of the Meeting Minutes of August 15, 2023

MOTION: P. Lombardo made a motion to approve the Council on Aging Meeting minutes of August 15, 2023, as written

B. Twyman Seconded

All in Favor

DIRECTOR'S BUDGET REPORT

None

OLD BUSINESS

a. Transportation Update – FRTA Transportation Meeting – Martin

J. Martin Attended the Transportation Update hosted by FRTA, Huntington COA and Pioneer Valley Planning Commission. The purpose of this meeting was to focus on the aging population and disabled seniors in the Hilltowns and lack of transportation availability.

FRTA spoke of a new program that they are hoping will fill some of the inequities in this area. Subjects covered:

- Lack of van drivers
- Application process is not user friendly
- Huntington CDC members spoke about a new program they started with local drivers paid
- Uber/Lyft is not viable in the Hilltowns
- Need better communication from FRTA
- Too difficult to sign up for FRTA
- Too inflexible

NEW BUSINESS

a. Flu Clinic 2023–Flu & COVID Shots

Blandford's COA will be hosting a Flu & COVID clinic on Friday, October 13, 2023, following their regularly scheduled luncheon. Forms will be available in the Select Board Office and should be returned to the COA by Tuesday, October 10. The clinic will be from 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm in the Council on Aging room at Blandford Town Hall.

b. Veteran's Dinner November 2023

The Annual Veteran's Dinner will be hosted by the Blandford Council on Aging on Saturday, November 11, 2023, at 5:00 pm. The meal will be salad, pot roast, baked potato, carrots, apple pie, pumpkin pie, and apple cider. Veterans and their spouses are free; others are \$5.00 per person. There will be no breakfast in the month of November as it is too close to Thanksgiving.

c. Christmas Luncheon 2023

The Annual Christmas event will be dinner at 5:00 pm on December 9, 2023, as a Dinner Theater event. More to come about this. There will be no breakfast in the month of December as it is too close to Christmas.

d. Americans with Disabilities Act Meeting - Mikuski

A meeting was held with Christopher Dunne, Judith MacKinnon, Linda Barnard, Mary Kronholm and Margit Mikuski to discuss concerns and projects that need to be addressed for people with disabilities. Some small, inexpensive ideas brought to the attention of the group was the rubber mat by the entrance door which is very hard to navigate on with a wheelchair, walker, etc. The grip bars in the bathrooms need to be brought to the appropriate height. The town has received a grant to address many issues.

Meeting adjourned at 6:55 pm

Absent

Heidi Taberman, Member

Robert Twyman, Member

Barbara Langmore, Member

Joann Martin, Chair

Lombardo, Member

Margit Mikuski, Director