

COUNCIL ON AGING BOARD MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8, 2025
9:00 A.M.
PRINCETON SENIOR CENTER, 206 WORCESTER ROAD

PRESENT:	BOARD MEMBERS:	Tim Fleury, Jane Giumette, Barbara Guthrie, Bill Lindquist, Wendy Pape, Fran Thomas, Mike Warren
	BOARD ALTERNATE:	Lynne Gordon, Lynne Grettum
	DIRECTOR:	Judith Webster
	GUESTS:	Robert Cummings, Jen Greene, Phil Gott
ABSENT:	ADMIN. & PROGRAM ASST:	Kelly Aveni

Minutes of the December 4, 2024 meeting were approved as presented.

Financial Report. The report reflected expenditures reported through the December 11th warrant. The bill for the flooring has been submitted and will be paid from ARPA funds. A new printer has been purchased but ARPA funding was not requested for this purchase. A level funded budget for FY26 has been submitted. The town has also requested that a 5% reduction budget be submitted as well. There is some concern that an override may be requested for FY26 if budgets are not reduced from FY25 budgets. Most of the COA budget contains fixed expenses. Postage will increase as the newsletter mailing has been expanded to include residents who are 60 years of age and above. Phil asked if space rental fees could be increased. Wendy agreed to write a letter to the town concerning the issues around trying to reduce the COA FY26 budget by 5 percent.

Programming. An AI update will be held on February 11th. This presentation will be available via zoom as well as in person. An estate planning workshop will be held on January 29th. A lawyer will discuss the seven essential documents that are required for estate planning. The lawyer will do a follow up presentation in February on probate and trusts. A life binder's session will be held on February 12 and 26 with 2 more sessions to be held in March.

The game of Jeopardy will be played on March 5th. Prizes will be awarded. Lecturer, Harry Quinlan, will give a talk on "Senior Happiness" on February 12th. Other programming ideas that are being worked on include a talk about the Spooner Murder and Decluttering/Downsizing. Judith also noted that the stories by Princeton residents on past histories in Princeton are moving slowly. The finished product has yet to be determined.

Events. In a follow up conversation with the Harrington Farm management, the manager felt additional tips this year for the waitresses and coat person would not be necessary. Staff is paid well and tips collected at the bar were dispersed among the staff. It was suggested that a tip jar be left at the bar next year and labeled for the wait staff.

The use of the Prince of Peace Church function room for the Chili party on January 23rd has been confirmed. The luncheon will be planned for 65-80 people. Menu will include meat and vegetarian chili, corn bread, salad and cookies. Chili will be prepared the day before.

A Valentine's Day grab and go will be held on February 13th. Lynne, Lynne and Mike will fill the bags on Wednesday, February 12th. Jane, Barbara and Tim will distribute the bags on the 13th.

Other events discussed included a Volunteer luncheon in April, a summer kickoff luncheon in June, an ice cream social in August, a Halloween event for October and Harrington Farm luncheon in December. It was agreed to hold the ice cream social inside the senior center rather than in the parking lot so that people can socialize easier.

Data & Survey. Fran is still working on updating our data base. Survey information also continues to be added to the data base. Survey results will hopefully be available in February.

Newsletter. The December newsletter went out with the calendar that was printed at the Senior Center. More ads will be needed for the newsletter. Wendy will contact Donna MacKenzie to see if she still has the list of potential advertisers that she developed before moving.

Long Range Plan. Wendy reported that the long-range planning template has been received. Efforts to complete the plan will begin soon.

New Business. Volunteers are needed to clean out the basement storage room.

The town has hired a new cleaning company for town offices.

The chairs in the Senior Center need to be more compatible with the table heights. The issue will be discussed with Phil Connors to see if a solution can be found.

Fran questioned if the dehydrator could be used for programming as she was interested. Judith noted that the dehydrator now belongs to the Senior Center so that it could be used however we wanted.

Some discussion was held on the need for more/better storage area for equipment and for supplies. The Arts Society as well as the COA stores equipment/materials both in the Center and the basement storage room.

Additional discussion was held on the need to review the funding received from the Arts Society for the space the Society uses. Judith noted that the fees paid for the space by the Arts Society benefits the town and not the COA. Bob Cummings suggested the COA request that the Selectboard review the use policy. Wendy agreed to discuss the issues with the Arts Society with Sherry.

It was noted that the doors leading into the large room need to be changed/fixed as they will damage the new floor if used.

Tim, Bill, Mike, Wendy, Lynne and Lynne all agreed to meet at the Senior Center of February 4th to clean out the basement storage room.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

NEXT MEETING: WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2025, 9:00 A.M.

