

**Minutes of the Egremont Council on Aging
February 14, 2017 - Egremont Town Hall**

Present: H. Krancer; D. Salamon; G. Kinney; M. Muskrat; E. Goldberg; Jane Apkin
Meeting called to order at 1:00pm

1. Minutes of January 17 COA meeting were approved as distributed.
2. The quilting event was very well received. \$111 was raised from donations. Dianne wrote and sent out press releases and made a point to give credit to The Egremont Village Inn.
3. Chet is chairing the march 1st luncheon on the topic of scamming. Chief Race will make a presentation on the subject. Peg will bring the microphone and Georgette will be in charge of food. Sandwich boards will be prepared the week of Feb 20th. Helen and Dianne will prepare and distribute press releases. The board agreed that Helen should submit press releases to the Shoppers Guide.
4. Bridges Together grant opportunity was discussed. Peg volunteered to reach out to the outgoing teacher at the South Egremont School to see what the possibilities might be for COA support.
5. Reaching our seniors is a COA priority. Peg has made a commitment to build a list of Egremont Seniors. The COA will reach out to friends and neighbors in order to help Peg build the list. Presently our mailing list numbers about 350. Betsy Andrus, Director of the Southern Berkshire Chamber of Commerce, will publish any COA press releases in her weekly bulletin which reaches seniors throughout southern Berkshire County.
6. Jane Apkin from Seniors Helping Seniors made a presentation about how the organization helps seniors throughout the Berkshires. To date they have served over 200 families. The COA invited her to the March 1st luncheon so she may present and distribute information to enlighten attendees about the many ways her organization helps seniors. She also volunteered to advertise our events in their newsletter.
7. A senior housing committee is being formed in Egremont. They are working on getting a grant to look into housing for Seniors..
8. A discussion on clarification of how to advertise our luncheons with regard to seeking donations to defray costs raised a concern that it is a priority to make it clear that all are welcome; a donation is appreciated but not required.
9. Georgette presented a budget update. Funds for a coordinator were approved for next year.
10. Next meeting will be Wednesday March 8 at noon..
11. Meeting adjourned at 2:15PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Eve Goldberg