

## Minutes of the Council on Aging Meeting - October 17, 2017

Present: Bruce Bernstein, Chairman, Georgette Kinney, Helen Krancer, Eve Goldberg, Peg Muskrat

Meeting called to order at 12:15 p.m.

Minutes of the Sept. 19 meeting were approved.

The annual Holiday Party will be held at the Egremont Village Inn on Sunday, Dec 10, from 2 - 4. Sandy and Sandy, from Mt. Washington will be providing entertainment.

Tea Party recap...very successful event. Next year it will be publicized as a celebration of our 90 and over seniors. Certificates will be presented to those turning 90 in 2018. The email list at the sign in table was very successful and enabled Peg to continue to start to build a contact list. Peg plans to place pens and pads on tables at future events so attendees can easily list ways in which COA can better serve the community.

Bruce is in charge of the Nov. 1 event at noon at the Egremont Village Inn. Jane Apkin, from "Seniors Helping Seniors", will present a talk on keeping your mind active. Georgette will order food and pick up dessert. Eve will pick up food, Helen will do publicity.

Peg is developing contacts in order to find ways to better serve our seniors who have hearing issues. Helen will contact Berkshire Health systems to see if it is possible to obtain discounted or free hearing aids and/or personal location devices. Peg has obtained the information to help seniors get phones with better sound free of charge. Peg also plans to reach out to Elder Services in order to see how they collect their lists of seniors and how they communicate to discover the needs of the senior community.

Peg has been in contact with PD and FD. They will continue to discuss ways to develop and strengthen the relationship between themselves and local seniors. Will also continue to pursue PD house checks for those seniors who would like to have this service.

Bruce continues to work on finding alternative ways for Egremont seniors to travel back and forth to GB safely. He was contacted by Rachel Fichtenbaum from the Mass Transit Dept because she is recommending our COA for a \$1500 grant as a result of the "Be Safe, Be Seen" program. Also, Simons Rock is being contacted in order to set up a program whereby seniors can walk on the indoor track throughout the winter for a small fee.

Bruce will write up and present the Annual Report at the All Boards Meeting on Oct. 23. Peg will also attend.

Georgette and Peg will update and have printed the yellow emergency cards.

Bruce's expectations for Peg are to continue to reach out to seniors and give us feedback. As the bridge to our seniors, we need to make sure that Peg is the hub of our communication and organization. It's important for Peg also to continue to communicate with PD and FD and to see that they attend COA meetings as needed.

Peg reported that a resident raised the issue of handicap bathrooms at the EVI. The Barn offers that amenity.

Peg also plans to reach out to MW COA as well as other South County COAs.

Peg and Georgette will meet in early November to begin work on next season's flier of events, which will be mailed out in early January 2018.

Next COA meeting will be Tuesday, Nov. 14<sup>th</sup> at 12:15. December meeting will be Tues., Dec 19<sup>th</sup> at 12:15.

Meeting adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Eve Goldberg