

**The Sheffield Council on Aging**  
**Minutes for November 9, 2009**  
By Dick Magenis

**Present:** John-Arthur, Dawn, Natalie, Anne, Joan, Carol, Lovina, Rosemarie, Dick, and Pauline representing the Friends.

The October 19 minutes were accepted unanimously.

**Treasurer's Report:**

1. The Friends checkbook account has a balance of \$2,677.93.
2. The COA budget and expenses thru 11/9 was reviewed and approved.
3. Pauline noted that the gift from the Grange to the Friends (\$6,000) is now in a 6 mo CD.

**Program & Activities**

1. The quilt will be raffled off at the holiday luncheon on Dec. 3.
2. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday (Nov. 19) is a potluck; Martha King & Annie Ryder on the ukulele will lead a sing along. Sandy French & Cheryl Reynolds will speak on fall prevention.
3. 3<sup>rd</sup> Thur lunch in Dec was canceled due to Holiday lunch at High School on 12/3
4. There is combined bingo & lunch on the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday in December (7<sup>th</sup>) at Claire Teague. In November only 3 persons were from Sheffield with total participation about 15, but it was a nice event. J-A encourages attendance and will be there again to help with the calling; 10-11:30 am. Order lunch ahead of time.
5. The Mohegan Sun Casino trip on 11/7 was cancelled – lack of signers.
6. A new program - Select board meetings viewed on cable, Tuesdays at noon.
7. Berkshire Housing & Development will administer grant monies for the new Senior Center, per Joe Kellogg. Bids possibly let out in Jan with ground breaking occurring in the spring. Dalton votes on Nov. 16 to confirm the funding for their center. They have \$800K and are voting on another \$500,000; spring ground breaking is planned for them as well.
8. Pauline & Joe are on WSBS this 11/18 at 9AM, discussing our new center among other things.
9. We must sign Conflict of Interest forms for Joe Kellogg.
10. Also received MA COA Proposed Goals & Initiatives for 2009/10 to peruse.

**Friends and New Building**

1. The building may be finished by the fall - estimated 8mos from ground breaking.
2. We need to plan a groundbreaking celebration; staffing hopes are for a fulltime director & a part time person, plus building our volunteer base. A local program for credit of up to \$1,000 on property taxes is available for volunteers over 62. What a great way to encourage help without costing town much money!
3. Could Friends encourage 3 hours-per-week commitments from volunteers? A receptionist/phone person is essential to free J-A up for program development and Outreach.
4. Orion offers a 1-year, free access to their grant database for public service organizations.
5. Pauline reported that they are saving money for a large-screen, 50" flat screen TV.

**Other Business**

1. J-A went to COA conference near Wilbraham. Was in contact with many colleagues in idea and information exchange.
2. Our Wii was purchased with Kiwanis gift money to the Friends. Winnie Veretto researched and bought basic games plus 2<sup>nd</sup> control for \$199.

**The next COA meeting will be on Monday, December 14, at 4:30 pm in Dewey Center.**