

**Minutes for the Council on Aging Meeting  
July 2, 2015  
Sheffield Senior Center**

**Those Present:** John Gilligan, David Smith, Jr., Kathy Staropoli (Chairman), Helen Johnston, David Steindler, Dick Magenis, Patricia Hardisty, and Jennifer Goewey (Executive Director)

**Approval of Minutes:** A review of the minutes of June 2, 2015 saw the correction of the typo “leasing a car” to “leasing a van.” Mr. Smith moved that the corrected minutes be approved as amended; seconded by Mrs. Johnston and carried unanimously.

**Expense Report:**

1. In the Formula Grant, the printing expense of \$817.50 for June was caused by the double edition of the newsletter for July & August. The overrun of \$149.50 in transportation was due to the process of leasing our new van for the Senior Center. A balance of \$7.89 remains.
2. In the COA budget, the \$9,173 balance was needed to meet some outstanding invoices remaining, including a new storage cabinet and a powerful handheld vacuum to clean the leased van. Mr. Smith moved to accept the budget; seconded by Mr. Steindler and carried unanimously.

**Executive Director Report:**

1. It has been busy in the Senior Center with such programs as the Kiwanis Family Safety Day, the Walking Challenge, workshops on Elder Law and Chronic Pain Management, and a successful finish to the Toddler program. The Berkshire Action Council will assist us in outreach via such programs as Food & Fuel Day.
2. In July we shall host stress relief and technology workshops, a showing & discussion of the film “Still Alice,” Get Cuffed (blood pressure), intergenerational cooking, a 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday barbecue with indoor armchair volleyball, and a trip to a Pittsfield Suns game on the 19<sup>th</sup>.
3. In August, we’ll host Wellness Wednesdays, a visit to Dewey Court, and an end-of-summer barbecue with bocce, as well as our usual offerings.
4. Re transportation, our major news is that we have leased a van from BRTA for \$1 per year, which will allow us to transport up to 8 passengers or 2 wheelchairs & 4 passengers. John Henry is our present driver, with several others almost finished in their training. This huge development, which will provide improved service for seniors at reduced cost, is due to Nadine’s insightful research. Jennifer will work up driver descriptions and user policies. There will be a special town meeting in

August to discuss establishing a revolving transportation account for the COA to meet future expenses in this area.

5. Jennifer is working on the FY2016 budget. We have received \$500 from Elder Services to be used to reimburse drivers transporting seniors in their own cars.

**Chairman Items:**

1. The Friendly Visitor program is going well, with psychologist Carol Noble offering insightful advice to our members participating.
2. Our congregant meals will begin in September, every Wednesday with our new steaming table. Elder Services will kindly provide plates, utensils, etc. Training will occur in August and volunteers are needed. An after-meal program is in the works.
3. Re finishing the Senior Center basement, the Friends of the Senior Center have hired an architect, John James, to offer an estimate.

**Member Items:** None

**Public Comment:** None

**Next Meeting Date:** There will be no COA meeting in August, although the Activities Committee will meet at a time to be determined. Our next COA meeting is on September 3, at 6:30 in the Senior Center.

**Adjournment:** Mrs. Staropoli moved to adjourn; seconded by Mrs. Johnston and carried unanimously.