

TOWN OF SHEFFIELD  
COUNCIL ON AGING  
Final  
November 9, 2020  
SHEFFIELD SENIOR CENTER  
10:15 am

Board Members Present: Eileen Clarke, Chairperson  
Nadine Hawver  
Gillian Hettinger  
Michelle Harwood  
Dick Goodwin  
John Gilligan  
Sherry Graybeal

Absent: Dorris Van Deusen  
Dave Smith

Others Present: Kathie Loring, Executive Director  
Elaine Ireland, Assistant to Director  
Martin Mitsoff

Chairperson Clarke called the meeting to order at 10:15 am.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Motion to approve the Minutes of September 8th by Nadine and seconded by Michelle. Approved unanimously.

**DISCUSSION ON THE SENIOR CENTER:**

Kathie reported that USDA will be delivering boxes of frozen food to be distributed to the same people we have been delivering to. Thank you to the Highway Department, Lee Hardware, and Dave Smith for making the Sand Bucket Program available again this year.

We have been conducting exercise classes inside weekly since October 5<sup>th</sup>. We have two air purifiers to help keep the air filtered during our activities so the windows and doors no longer need to be left open.

Thank you to Dick for bringing Bingo back. We have 4-5 people attending on Tuesdays.

Transportation is going well. We helped Great Barrington out in October. They started offering rides with their own van on October 30<sup>th</sup>

**UPCOMING EVENTS:**

Ban Health Care will be presenting a talk on November 16<sup>th</sup> to discuss how to prepare for an unexpected hospital stay. Lunch will be served.

Nadine will be hosting a wreath making workshop for up to 9 people on December 16<sup>th</sup>. The cost is \$15 and includes all supplies needed.

Gregory Matak may be able to do a Pastel workshop before the end of December.

**BOARD ITEMS:** There were some questions about exercise: Nadine and Eileen asked about how it is determined who can take the class and if there are out of town people participating and if this creates a shortage of spaces for local residents. There was question about a waiting list for classes. Kathie said we looked at the participants who have been regularly taking the classes first and filled all the open spaces with those people and at this point there is only one person on the waiting list which we have discussed with her there will be a spot available next month.

Bingo was brought up by Dick. He asked if it was too much work to have Bingo for 4-5 participants that are attending. He was concerned where the money is coming from to finance the weekly pot. Nadine commented that she felt regardless of how many people attending this is a social outlet which is much needed by some of our seniors. Kathie said the money is presently coming from the friends. She also suggested possibly using something instead of money as a reward. She agreed keeping the program in spite of the low numbers seems to be a good idea at this time. Kathie also added that groups for socialization can now be set up with nine or fewer people following all the Covid 19 requirements.

**BOARD OF HEALTH ITEMS:** Martin brought up the subject of current policy for physical assistance with the van. Kathie said the program is set up as door to door and if someone needs further assistance it is the responsibility of a family member or other designated person to take care of. We are not required to help on or off the van with the exception of wheel chair securement. Nadine added that in training it is discouraged. This discussion led to assistance inside the building. Martin said as far as employees there should not be assistance offered because of the possibility of litigation. He did seem to imply that if a member volunteered to help they would potentially be covered under the Good Samaritan Law. He also stated his opinion that if the interaction was less than 15 minutes total he didn't feel there was a great risk for Covid transmission. Nadine asked for clarification that if it takes 5 minutes to help someone it is a low risk.

**FRIENDS ITEMS:** Michelle offered to talk with the Friends chairperson regarding Bingo money. Nadine suggested fundraising for minor issues like handicap entrance ramps for seniors. Michelle said there is no money available now but there is a possibility of creating a new fundraiser.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Gillian commented that Sheffield Times sent out free publications throughout the pandemic and their funds have fallen very short so they are in need of more money.

Eileen moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:45 am, seconded by Dick. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by,

Elaine Ireland  
Assistant to the Director

Documents Reviewed:  
Minutes