

## Conway Council on Aging

### Minutes, Meeting of August 7, 2019

Called to order 9:35 a.m.

Present: Pat Lynch, Carolyn Thayer, Hank Horstmann, Pat Kocot, Peg Tiley

**MINUTES** Accepted.

**FINANCE REPORT** FY19 ended June 30. Michael Kociela, the town accountant, reported to the state Executive Office of Elder Affairs that there was a zero balance in the Formula Grant. Carolyn's figures show an unspent balance of \$315.50. She will meet with Michael to discuss the discrepancy. Other balances:

Town appropriation \$860 Church St. Fund \$780

VOTED: To send \$125 to the *Visitor* for services rendered (publication of Senior Calendar and other notices).

### OLD BUSINESS

**Durable Medical Equipment Loan Program** Hank reported that things are currently slow. Pat will revise the notice in the *Visitor* to reflect the current inventory.

**Foot Clinics** The next clinic will be held Sept. 9. Numbers remain stable.

**Home Repair Program** Pat reported that she has begun the Satisfaction Survey required by the grantor, LifePath, and that responses have been positive. The grant will renew automatically in September for a second year, pending approval by LifePath. Tom Pleasant, our handyman, is willing to continue in that role. Pat will need to repeat the grant application process in April should the COA decide to continue beyond 2020.

VOTED: To set aside \$500 from the town appropriation to be used to cover any shortage in the Church Street Grant at the end of the grant year on September 30.

**Senior Lunches** The senior picnic will be held on Thursday, Aug. 29, at the Sportsmen's Club and will be hosted by the club. The meal is free, but donations in support of the Sportsmen's Club are suggested. Another picnic will be held at the club on Thursday, Sept. 26, hosted by TRIAD.

**Yoga** While attendance at the mat yoga class remains high, the chair yoga class is not attracting sufficient numbers. Pat will compose a *Visitor* notice at creating greater interest in the class. In the fall, the COA will reassess continuing the class.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Proposed Emergency Preparedness Plan** Pat reported the following:

On June 13, Pat and Carolyn attended a meeting called by Kenny Ouimette, Sue Bridge, and Lee Whitcomb concerning a projected Emergency Preparedness Plan for seniors in our community, which they are asking the Council on Aging to take charge of. Pat's view of the ideal plan is to (1) create a street list limited to seniors (age 60 and above), (2) organize the list into "neighborhoods" based on contiguity, (3) acquire telephone numbers for each listed residence, and (4) ultimately recruit an organizer for each neighborhood who would in turn organize a corps of volunteers to, in the event of an emergency, check on seniors by telephone or door-to-door visits if necessary. Pat and Lee met again on June 20 and 27.

Pat combined the town street list (alphabetical by street) with the town census of residents over 55 (organized by date of birth) to indicate at which addresses seniors lived. Lee will use this information to create a street list consisting solely of seniors.

Pat will contact George Murphy, the town's emergency management director, to determine what help he can provide for this project.

### **Other Business**

Sue Bridge and Lee Whitcomb are organizing a "Friends of Conway" group. One of their plans, to accompany the Emergency Preparedness Plan, is to create an emergency kit for residents, containing not only supplies but useful information on how to prepare for an emergency.

TRIAD is holding its annual Senior Health & Safety Expo on Tues., Sept. 10, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Scheutzen Verein, Barton Cove, Gill. Luncheon will be provided free of charge. Last year there were 50 information booths.

Pat reported on LifePath's quarterly meeting of COAs and senior centers, held on August 6. Elaine Arsenault made a presentation on the upcoming 2020 U.S. Census, which will begin in March. The census will be conducted through online reporting, but paper forms will be available for those without computer access. Pat has informational handouts available. Pat also collected information about other COAs' programs, which there was no time to present.

Meeting adjourned at 10:20 a.m. Next meeting will be September 4.