

COUNCIL ON AGING MEETING

Thursday October 24, 2019 – 1:00 PM – Richmond Town Hall, 1529 State Road

PRESENT: Ms. Betsy Bemis; Mr. Peter Cohen, Chair; Ms. Phyllis LeBeau, Director; Ms. Pat Malnati; Ms. Linda Mitchell; Ms. Joanna Stengle

ABSENT:

GUEST: Mr. John Zick, Director of the West Stockbridge COA; Ms. Paula Farrell, Assistant/Secretary of the West Stockbridge COA.

Possible Monthly Meetings: A discussion of the need for a regular schedule of meetings resulted in a consensus to hold meetings every second Thursday of the month at 1:00 PM.

An Official Cooperative Model with the West Stockbridge COA: Ms. LeBeau reported that she received a phone call from the West Stockbridge Town Administrator, Marie Ryan, in which Ms. Ryan asked Ms. LeBeau to discuss with Richmond's Town Administrator, Ms. Danielle Fillio, the possibility of making West Stockbridge's and Richmond's Councils on Aging officially one. Ms. LeBeau raised the issue with Ms. Fillio who agreed to bring the question to the Board of Selectmen at their next meeting. The group agreed with the concept.

Mr. Zick noted the financial benefits of sharing resources between the two towns, which generated a discussion of the vehicles each town currently has and the benefits and problems in each. The discussion included the possibility of the towns purchasing a larger, more modern van that could be used for trips, which the current vans owned in both towns do not provide.

There was a discussion of drivers-in West Stockbridge there is one paid driver (\$11.00/Hr.) whereas Richmond depends on volunteer drivers.

Approval of the Minutes of the June 3, 2019 Meeting: Mr. Peter Cohen moved that the minutes be approved as read. He was seconded by Ms. Betsy Bemis and the motion was adopted by unanimous consent.

Review of Finances: Ms. LeBeau provided a report on the current status of the funds in the Council on Aging budget. There was a discussion of the grant that would be coming from the state and whether it would be the \$6,000. that was anticipated.

The Holiday Party: There was a discussion of where the event could be held if it were to include the Town of Richmond in general as it had the previous year. After several options were explored, the consensus was that there was no venue locally that could comfortably accommodate over 100 people and that the combined Richmond and West Stockbridge COA party should not also include the Richmond Town party. That meant that the Parish Hall of the West Stockbridge St. Patrick's Church would be an appropriate venue. Mr. Zick will arrange for

the Hall to be reserved for the party (date to be determined). A discussion then ensued concerning the choice of a caterer. Mr. Zick reported that a caterer he had used successfully in the past, Pleasant and Main Café, would be able to do an excellent job. Mr. Zick was asked to contact the caterer and ask about his availability and to provide a menu and a price range and discuss decorations, which the Richmond COA has in stock. Mr. Zick will do that.

The Menu:

Turkey with all the fixings

Ham

Sweet Potatoes

Turnips

Green Beans Almondine

Salad

Desserts (bread pudding with a hard sauce)

Ms. LeBeau asked that the caterer also supply the ice cream and toppings. A volunteer from the Committee will serve the ice cream. Linda Mitchell volunteered to do the serving.

The keyboard instrument to accompany the children's chorus will be supplied by St. Patrick's Church.

A discussion then ensued concerning the date to set for the party. The consensus was that the party will take place on Tuesday December 10th at 12:00 Noon at the West Stockbridge St. Patrick's Church Parish Hall.

Review of the August Picnic: Everyone agreed that the entertainers (the caricaturist and the magician) were very well received. In regards to the music provided by Woody , the concern was that the volume was too loud. He will be asked to reduce the volume next year.

Discussion of Possible Trips, Events for 2020: Mr. Cohen provided a list of events coming up at the Normal Rockwell Museum and other venues for consideration for next year. Ms. LeBeau will incorporate some of the events in the Jan/Feb issue of the COA Newsletter.

Ms. Farrell mentioned that the COA in Otis has considerable success with putting together large groups to go on the trips and attend the events he has scheduled for the entire year. She noted that he uses an extensive email distribution list to publicize those events and the invitation is not limited to people in the COA.

Voting for a new Chair of the COA Committee: It was decided that any such vote should be held until after decisions concerning the joining of the two COA's are complete and details are worked out by the two Boards.

There being no further business before the Board, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting.
The motion was seconded and carried by unanimous vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 PM

