

**Hadley Council on Aging
November 10, 2020
Board Meeting Minutes**

Call to Order:

Rosalie Weinberg called the meeting to order at 10:40 am, at the Hadley Senior Center. Present included: Bruce Brewer, Betty Faulkner, Glenn Clark, Linda LaDuc, Rosalie Weinberg and Peg Wilson.

Friends of Hadley Council on Aging: Jane Nevinsmith, Chair

Employees: Hayley Wood, Senior Services Director

Meeting Minutes:

The minutes from the September 18, 2020 Council meeting were reviewed. Peg made a motion to approve and Rosalie seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Financial Statement from September to October 2020:

Hayley presented the September/October financial statement and provided a handout for Council members to review and approve. She highlighted a number of areas of the financial statement. The funding from Highland Valley Elder Services, through the Cares Act, has been received. Over-all there is nothing unusual to report regarding expenses and revenues. Hayley did note that the House Ways & Means FY'21 budget, that was just released, has funding for COAs statewide as level funded. When the state does pass its budget then it will be retroactive to last July 1st. Hayley mentioned she just reported Hadley's COA stats to Elder Affairs, which is done annually. She also mentioned that the PVTa grant that Hadley has received will allow increased destinations for transportation to seniors. Linda made a motion to approve the financial statement, it was seconded by Glenn, and the motion was passed unanimously.

Old Business:

Building Update:

Jane and Hayley gave an update. A lock for the door between the receptionist and the offices still needs to be installed. Some exterior work needs to be done involving the exit door off of the exercise room to make it wheelchair accessible: extending pavement. The fireplace/chimney flue needs to be fixed. Overall things are looking great. The goal is to address any issues discovered while there is still money in the building project budget and while contractors are still involved from the original installation, to address all of these issues. Hayley and Jane are still working on a shelter for the van (its placement in the parking lot is not yet certain). The structure may or may not be able to be built on the Senior Center property. The town is still working out the details. If that is not possible, the van shelter may be located on the property of the Fire Station. The purpose of the shelter is to protect the van from weather and not require drivers to spend valuable time cleaning the van off from snow. The structure is pre-fabricated and has been ordered.

New Business:

Activities and Services Statistics:

Hayley presented statistics of services and activities involving the COA and Senior Center from the fiscal year that just ended. Some of the numbers highlighted included there has been

60 active volunteers, and 588 individuals served for FY2020. This included 325 individuals in outreach services, and 302 people participating in recreational activities. There have been 802 individual meals served and delivered to a total of 58 people. With the help of the “Friends” there has been 6,300 newsletters mailed out, and 1,300 copies emailed.

Van Program Update:

The van driver is willing to flex his schedule which will allow the COA to offer more choices, as long as it does not exceed 12 hours a week. Currently a trip cannot not exceed more than 3 passengers at a time and it can accommodate a wheelchair. The COA is currently creating publicity about the program and it’s being done through a number of avenues (a videotaped PSA on Hadley Media channel, posted flyers, the website, newsletter, and e-newsletters).

Report on the Use of the Senior Center as a Polling Place:

The Senior Center was used as a polling place for Hadley residents on November 3rd, and everything went very well. It also allowed voters to see the newly built Senior Center: for many, the first time. Staff received a lot of positive feedback.

Staffing and Volunteer Updates:

It was reported that on December 4th there will be a curbside pickup for hot cocoa and cookies for Hadley seniors which is being offered by the Friends of the Hadley COA. Also, the Outreach Coordinator is working remotely but does come in on Thursdays to deliver lunches and other times pre-arranged with clients when face-to-face assistance and document copying is necessary. This arrangement has been made to accommodate her staying at home, while her kids stay at home and attend school remotely.

Building Use Proposal:

A draft of the Hadley Senior Center Building Use Regulations was distributed and then discussed. There were some additional minor revisions made and will be reviewed again at the next COA meeting in order to be finalized.

AARP Tax Program Update:

Hayley reported that she was contacted by a representative of this AARP program and they wanted to know if Hadley would be willing to allow its Senior Center to be used as a regional hub to do tax returns for seniors both from Hadley and surrounding towns. Hadley has always offered this program to Hadley seniors and 106 residents have used in the past. The regional hub idea is being proposed because of the constraints of the COVID-19 pandemic and the difficulty of AARP offering this service safely at multiple locations throughout the area. There was a lot of discussion by COA board members and it was decided that more information was needed before a decision could be reached. Members recommended that Hadley not be burdened with scheduling and mailing materials to all regional clients but that a collaborative approach be developed. Hayley agreed to keep the Board up to date with her negotiations with Pat McCabe, the AARP TaxAide program rep for our region.

Adjournment:

Meeting was adjourned at 12:16 pm and was based on a motion made by Bruce and seconded by Linda. The motion was passed unanimously.