

Hadley Council on Aging  
March 12, 2012  
Minutes

1. **Call to Order:** Chair Elsie Andrews called the meeting to order at 10:35AM. Others present at the meeting were Rita Bishko, Glenn Clark, Betty Faulkner, Peg Jekanowski, George Ritter and Senior Services Director Jane Wagenbach Booth. Absent: Bertha Baranowski
2. **Minutes:** Rita Bishko made a motion to accept the minutes from February 14, 2012, seconded by Glenn Clark, and passed unanimously with a vote of 6-0-0.
3. **Monthly Financial Statement:**
  - The Council reviewed the Financial Statement for February 2012. Glenn Clark made a motion, seconded by Peg Jekanowski, to accept the Financial Statement as presented. Motion passed with a vote of 6-0-0.
  - Budget—No new information
  - Grant Applications—No new information
4. **Annual Town Report** No new information
5. **H.V.E.S. Board Representative Update:** Board Representative Betty Faulkner reported the following: Jim Sorrell, Ombudsman Program Director for H.V.E.S., gave a presentation about the Ombudsman Program. There are 14 ombudsmen who visit nursing homes and rest homes in this area weekly. Their main objective is to listen to residents' concerns while living in these facilities and to resolve them so they can have a better quality of care. They will also talk to family members.
6. **H.V.E.S. Nutrition Site Council Representative Update:** Rita Bishko reported that the Nutrition Council had a good meeting, and there will be some changes to the menu.
7. **Correspondence/Announcements:**
  - A letter of resignation from long-time Council on Aging Member Bertha Baranowski was read. Bertha served on the Council continuously for 28 years, and she will be missed. The Director asked the Board members if they knew of any one who had interest in service on the Council and stated that interested parties should submit letters of interest to the Select Board and/or Council. The letter of resignation will be forwarded to the Select Board along with the request that the Council be allowed to have input in regard to a perspective Council member.
  - On 3/5/12 Town Administrator David Nixon started holding regular group meetings with Town Department Heads. Upcoming meetings will take place at the Town Hall on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of each month at 11:00 A.M.
  - Walter "Whitey" Hopfe—a regular participant at the Senior Center for a number of years—recently passed away. Donations in his memory have kindly been directed to the Council on Aging/Senior Community Center. He will be missed.
  - Details regarding the new Hadley website—or Virtual Town Hall—are still being worked out.

## 8. Program Update:

- Report on the Fat Tuesday, February 21, 2012 Mardi Gras Party: Eighty-nine people were in attendance. The Horse Mountain Jazz Band entertained. The menu was essentially the same as has been offered in recent years. The quantity of each food item prepared or purchased was appropriate with only one po'boy left over. There was discussion about having either a cake or the chocolate fountain—not both. Appreciation was expressed for the generosity of George Ritter's relatives as they mailed 3 King Cakes, prizes, and doubloons. The volunteer assistants helped greatly to make this event a success.

Total event cost:	\$994.83
Door donations:	483.00
Donation from Joe & Mary Fitzgibbon:	100.00
Net cost:	\$411.88

Suggestions: Elsie Andrews thought that in the future once everyone arrives and is given several strands of beads, those remaining should be moved out of the main area and protected for the following year's party. Glenn Clark thought there was one "dull spot" after dinner. Perhaps at that point in future years prizes could be given for something like best costume to encourage people to dress up.

- The Tax-Aide Program was fully booked on March 12<sup>th</sup> and is nearly full for the second date of April 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- The "Senior Spring Fling" sponsored by Hadley Girl Scout Troop 522 will be held on Sunday, March 25<sup>th</sup> from 4:30-6:30 P.M. on the lower level of the Senior Center. They are offering this community service project as they work toward their Bronze Award. Seniors are encouraged to attend.
- A speaker for our site has been requested for this year's Elder Law Program of the Massachusetts Bar Association. Our preference for a Wednesday in May was indicated.
- Jen Gould and several additional nursing students from Greenfield Community College will present an Emergency Preparedness Class on April 9, 2012 from 10-11:00 at the Senior Center.
- The Director is attempting to schedule Captain Michael Spanknebel of the Hadley Fire Department for a repeat of the American Heart Association's Friends and Family CPR Program. This non-certification course was recently offered at Windfield Senior Estates during the Council's monthly office hours. It was very well received.
- Personnel from Hadley at Elaine Care and Rehabilitation will offer a Alzheimer's Association Caregiver Support Group at our Senior Center. It will meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month at 2:00 P.M. beginning on April 11<sup>th</sup>.
- Another National Drug Take Back Day will be held on April 28<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 – 2:00 P.M. with participation by the Hadley Police Department and the Hadley TRIAD/S.A.L.T. Council. This event is sponsored by The Drug Enforcement Administration, Hampshire/Franklin TRIAD, etc.
- Chris Geffin, Coordinator for the Elders and Persons with Disabilities Unit of the Northwestern District Attorney's office will be the guest speaker at the April 12<sup>th</sup> and May 10<sup>th</sup> Hadley TRIAD S.A.L.T. Council meetings. The topic will be "Elder Protection—What You Can Do To Keep Yourself Safe". This Council has a very close working relationship with the S.A.L.T. Council.

## 9. Senior Center Enhancements/ Use of Space:

- Regarding the dishwasher, the machine now comes on randomly all by itself. The Director has reported this situation to Gary Berg from Building Maintenance/Highway. Gary previously met with a plumber and a member of the Sewer Department. A price quote for preparation of the area for the new dishwasher including the installation of a new grease trap is still awaited.
- Repairs on the roof on the main part of the Senior Center are scheduled to begin mid-March.
- The Council approved the deposit of the proceeds from the January Caribbean Cruise into the Gifts and Donations Account versus into the Van Donation Account—the usual account used for trip proceeds. The intent is to use these monies for refurbishing the Education Room across from the Council on Aging office. Input is sought regarding a good design/layout for this space. The opinions of two local individuals were suggested: Peg Miller and Peter Gelinas.

10. **Transportation/Travel**

- The April 17<sup>th</sup> luncheon and show at the Log Cabin featuring “The International Tenors” has been cancelled by the facility.
- Upcoming trips include visiting Louisa May Alcott’s Orchard House in Concord, a shopping trip to Kohl’s and BonTon, and a 3 day-2 night trip to New York City.
- Public hearings on proposals to increase fares and make minor bus trip changes have been scheduled. A March 27<sup>th</sup> meeting is scheduled in Northampton and a March 29<sup>th</sup> meeting in Amherst. No PVRTA bus routes will be eliminated. The proposed paratransit van fare increase is \$.50 for each one-way trip, or from \$2.50 to \$3.00 within the local area. The proposed elderly and disabled cash fare increase is from \$.60 to \$.75.

11. **Topics for future discussion:**

Regarding the letter to State officials expressing the Council’s opposition to the proposed budget cuts to the Elder Nutrition Program, the Director stated that she spoke this date to John Lutz, Executive Director of Highland Valley Elder Services, who stated that restoration of fiscal year 2013 elder nutrition monies is likely; however, the importance of communicating our concerns remains.. Letters will be sent this date to State Senator Rosenberg and State Representative Scibak.

Glenn Clark noted that the State legislature is discussing assisted suicide; this may be a topic of interest in the future.

12. **Adjournment:** At 11:50 A.M. Rita Bishko made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Betty Faulkner; motion passed unanimously with a vote of 6-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret J. Jekanowski  
Secretary