

Leyden Council on Aging
Minutes of Meeting
November 1, 2022
Town Hall
4:30 p.m.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 4:34.

Present: Mary Glabach, Linda Baker, Robbie Milner, Andrea Zimmerman, Kathy Fritz, Michèle Higgins.

Absent: Gilda Galvis, Linda Allis.

Guests: Liz Kidder, Beth Kuzdeba, Carol Kuzdeba.

Minutes: Michèle noted a needed correction. The paragraph at the end about exercise class beginning was a repeat and need to be taken out. Kathy made a motion to accept the minutes from the meeting of October 4 as amended. Linda B. seconded. All approved. The minutes were accepted as amended.

Budget: In Gilda's absence, Michèle reported that she had put the \$569.40 bill from Hager's in for processing. She had no new budget news and repeated the total given by Gilda from our last meeting of \$5,978.53. There was no update from the Accountant.

Guests: We gave the floor to Beth Kuzdeba.

She talked to us about the lock box program that the Bernardston Senior Center is promoting. In conjunction with the police, they have named it the Bernardston Leyden Lock Box program. Both Beth and Liz explained that once a person fills out the form and returns it to the Bernardston Senior Center, the applicant will receive a phone call to arrange an appointment for an outreach worker to make a home visit to set up a code whereby Shelburne control will have the code (it will be kept in encrypted form) can provide it to emergency personnel who might have to come to someone's house. While there is no fee, a donation is requested. Liz gave Michèle a stack of applications which will be made available at our coffees and luncheons. Liz and Beth will make sure copies are available at the Town Offices and also at the informational meeting for the Public Safety Advisory Committee on November 7 at the Town Offices.

We also mentioned that there have been requests for small signs that the residents have pets in the house. Beth said that Marcia Miller is working on that. Mary asked if the police can be made aware on the application form that people have dogs.

Michèle will write a small note in the COA section of Leyden Life letting people know about the availability of this program.

Beth also passed a message on from FRCOG public health nurse Lise White about whether we would be interested in having a public health nurse come to conduct blood pressure/health screening checks. Michèle said that she had been planning to talk to Lisa during the flu/covid vaccine clinic on Election Day. Beth thought it would be best to email her rather than speaking to her then as it could be too hectic. Michèle will email her.

Beth told us that the Board of Health is working on a needs assessment survey which she will allow us to look at and add to it if we think that something else should go into it. That form, she said, will ask about pets. Two of the surveys that they are using as models come from Hingham and Hawley.

Beth also asked us if we have a liaison for fuel assistance. We do not but can refer people to Community Action in Greenfield. Carol said that there are income eligibility requirements, forms to fill out and documents to provide. We can refer people to their website.

Beth reported that LifePath has released the results from the Age Friendly survey. Michele Giarusso watched the online presentation, and LifePath wants the Selectboard to be informed about it.

Beth also asked us offering a presentation about the new Medicare rules. Chris Maguire has been presenting for SHINE. Mary will contact her to see if she will present to Leyden. We will add a "special" coffee on Nov. 30 from 9:30 - 11:00 if Chris can present. Timing is important because the deadline for open enrollment this year is Dec. 7. Linda B. will put it on the drive through slips if Chris is able to come. Beth wants us to call every eligible person in Town, but we will get the information out in other ways. Liz suggested one way is by emailing Chris Larrabee at The Recorder.

One final question from Beth was about Veterans' services and whether we aware that there is an organization for them in Greenfield. Michèle said that that was in the works.

Meals/Activities:

Linda A.'s exercise class will be extended to Nov. 29. Tomorrow's class and class on the 8th have both been cancelled.

Michèle said that she had tentatively scheduled a scam/anti-fraud program with Brian Lively from the Greenfield/Northampton Cooperative bank after our luncheon on December 7 and would confirm with him if we agreed. We did. (She asked at Greenfield/Northampton Coop Bank because of Vanessa Russell's connection there.) Beth added that John Richardson of the Bernardston Police also does work in this area

and we might consider inviting him to this presentation. Michèle said she would ask Brian if he is ok with this before contacting Chief Palmeri.

Andrea and Mary will bake for the coffee on the Nov. 9. Karen Loomis will present her paint pouring at 10:00.

Linda B. and Mary will ask people that they know for maple syrup for the Veterans' Day Breakfast on Nov, 12.

Lew Becker will make pancakes for the Veterans' Day Breakfast. Michèle will ask him to please cover his facial bandage. She will also check with him for what grocery items he will need. Sue had told Michèle that she thinks she bought 8 dozen eggs. In addition to sausage, we will also offer bacon.

Our drive through for Nov. 18 will be from Pine Hill: Ham and cheese and tuna fish sandwiches.

For our soup luncheon on December 7 (also the scam/anti-fraud program), Linda B. will make tomato cheddar soup and grilled cheese.

We thought that using Village Pizza for our December 16 drive through would be appropriate since they will be transferring ownership as of the first of the year.

RAVE alert system: Because Liz and Beth were both still present, Michèle asked them to speak about this system because Liz was actually the one who asked that this topic be put on our agenda. Beth said that there is no update because the Selectboard has not yet decided how to proceed with the program. Michèle asked them to let us know when we need to take this topic up for discussion. They said they would but asked us to be thinking about what kinds of events the COA would want to have broadcast with this system.

The question of whether TRIAD conducts wellness checks on residents came up. They do not do this. Michèle will email Chief Palmeri about this.

Kathy made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:50. Linda B. seconded. All approved.

Our next meeting is scheduled for **December 6, 2022, at 4:30 at Town Hall.**

Respectfully submitted,
Michèle Higgins, Secretary/Chair