

**Leyden Council on Aging
Minutes of Extra Meeting
December 27, 2022
Town Offices
4:30 p.m.**

Call to order: The meeting was called to order at 4:30 and was recorded and set up for GoTo.

Michèle read the following statement: "I was informed by Liz Kidder that we are to make this a GoTo meeting even though it is not posted as such. Perhaps it is a new policy." She also stated that all votes need to be roll call votes because it is a remote meeting.

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

Absent: ø

Guests in person: Sarah Bartholomew, Beth Kuzdeba, Liz Kidder (running the GoTo equipment).

Remote guests (as announced by Liz Kidder): Sara Seinberg, Barbara Wallace.

Minutes: Kathy made a motion to approve the minutes from our December 6 meeting. Gilda seconded. All approved. Roll call: Gilda - yes; Kathy - yes; Linda B. - yes; Andrea - yes; Robbie - yes; Mary - yes; Michèle - yes.

Michèle reminded everyone that we canNOT identify the entity by name or position or gender, that we canNOT say anything that might identify. She said that what we can do is discuss and process the most recent Selectboard meeting as it pertains to the COA.

Gilda wondered why the COA was not advised that the COA was on their agenda. Michèle noted that the email to Lisa White was not included with the letter sent to the SB because they were recipients of that email. She also said that Glenn's comment about "healthy stress" was an indication to her that they are dismissive of our complaint.

Robbie said that she had a very hard time hearing at the meeting and did not hear Glenn's comment about "healthy stress."

Andrea said that the entity needs to see a doctor. She said that we are volunteers, trying to do what is good for the town and that she feels as if we are being forced out.

Robbie is shocked that they have involved Town Counsel when we are asking for their support, that we are feeling unsupported, treated like pariahs, and why? She referenced a previous executive session in which a party was not notified and asked if anyone knew anything about that.

Gilda said she did not know. Nobody else did, either.

Mary commented that she has been on countless other committees and expressed frustration about how people have been called names here. She wondered how we can get back to a feeling of camaraderie. She expressed frustration about not being appointed this past fall, that others talk of building community and of forming other committees that will build community but doesn't see a way to get back to friendships. She does not understand why we can't work together.

Gilda said that she has been on the COA for 22 years and has never had problems until now. She said she will resign and read a letter of resignation effective January 31.

Michèle said that we haven't approved that.

Robbie reminded us that she joined the COA to work with us and that it is a shame that it has come to this and suspects that there is a hidden goal.

Kathy and Andrea agreed that we are being forced out.

Linda B. stated that people who come to our functions enjoy them and that it is on them if they don't come.

Andrea again stated that we are volunteers. People have always been allowed to go to Bernardston.

Gilda said that she feels badly for those who come to our functions.

Michèle said that she cannot go on like this, that she wants to resign but that she can't make a motion. We need a motion, a second and then discussion.

Gilda made a motion that we all resign on January 27, 2023. Kathy seconded.

We aren't closing the COA; we are resigning from the COA. The money will stay.

Michèle apologized to Linda Allis and said that she would put it in writing.

Robbie asked if we should even bother with the executive session.

We all said yes.

Andrea asked if our luncheon and January coffees have to be held at the Town Offices.

No, they do not.

We will write our letters of resignation for the last meeting which is January 3, 2023.

All approved. Roll call: Gilda - yes; Kathy - yes; Linda B. - yes; Andrea - yes; Robbie - yes; Mary - yes; Michèle - yes.

Michèle will take packets of evidence to Michele G. some time on Thursday. (the 29th, due date: the 3rd.)

Baking for coffees: Mary and Robbie will bake for coffee on the 11th, and Gilda and Michèle will bake for the 25th.

Kathy made a motion to adjourn at 5:04. Gilda seconded. All approved. Roll call: Gilda - yes; Kathy - yes; Linda B. - yes; Andrea - yes; Robbie - yes; Mary - yes; Michèle - yes.

Respectfully submitted,

Michèle Higgins
Chair/Secretary