

Leyden Select Board Minutes
Leyden Town Office Building
Regular Session
February 21, 2023
9:00 am

Select Board Members Present: Katherine DiMatteo, Glenn Caffery, Bill Glabach

Others Present: Michele Giarusso, John Higgins, Liz Kidder, Ginny Rockwood, Anne Garvey, Peg Brown, Nanette Rolstad, Carol Kuzdeba, Amy St. Clair, Eric Johnson

Katherine called the meeting to order at 9:05 am.

DISCUSSION

Senior Services

Katherine explained the Mass in Motion grant that Leyden is part of through the FRCOG. Beth Kuzdeba, Karin Parks and Jerry Lund are at training today for Leyden. Leyden needs a working group for this grant.

Linda Allis and Katherine met previously, and Linda has agreed to stay on for 15 hours/month as coordinator for the COA. Linda said she would like to restart the exercises classes that she ran in the spring and fall. She explained what had been offered each month-foot clinic is something she thinks we should continue to do and grab n go lunches. She said the previous COA chose not to do Lifepath meals because they wanted to offer a higher quality lunch. Money spent on lunches has been around \$500/mo. They had started up a soup and sandwich lunch also. The ingredients for these were store bought and people made the soups, she is not sure how much was spent on this. There was a craft workshop offered and a BP clinic was held once. Linda feels strongly that we should be coordinating more with the Bernardston Senior Center. Bernardston offers a bus to various places, and they receive much more money through many grants. They would welcome Leyden. FRTA provides a on demand bus, but Leyden residents do not seem to use. The on demand will even take residents to the Bernardston Senior Center which may entice some people. We need to get the word out about senior services in Leyden. The price is very reasonable.

Katherine stated she reached out to the Executive office of Elder Affairs and explained Leyden's situation. She was told towns do not have to have COAs, the Select Board can act as the COA until they appoint new members.

She then asked the audience for their suggestions.

Suggestions: Jennifer, Director at the Bernardston Senior Center just received a large grant. They can provide more services with these grants. Lifepath meals state nutritional value so people can take home and heat up at their own convenience if they want.

There is a report that has to be filled out to the state each year in order to receive grants. Do we have that report? It may be helpful to see how many people came to the drive by vs. sit down lunches or other data.

Liz Kidder said she has had conversations with Jennifer in Bernardston. When Jennifer was the director in Amherst the town of Pelham was invited to Amherst. They had a cooperative program. Liz shared a spreadsheet of activities they did.

Bill Glabach mentioned that Leyden used to work with Bernardston in the past and shared directors and services.

Amy St Clair wanted to know next steps. Katherine replied that we should continue to have Linda Allis as the coordinator to organize activities. Glenn suggested if people want to be appointed to the COA they can be for the remainder of this year (June 30) to keep the enthusiasm going since the turnout today is so good.

Nanette suggested having another meeting within the next week. She would like to have coffee and history two Sundays in March in the Historical Commission rooms. March 5th and 19th 9a-11a. Ginny Rockwood asked about the previous issues where the past COA members stepped down. Are the issues resolved? Or will the new COA take the issues on. Glenn replied there are still issues some are confidential, some public but a new COA would not have issues.

Katherine decided the next meeting would be next Wednesday, possibly late afternoon. Emails will go out to everyone.

Motion: Katherine moved to adjourn the meeting at 12:10 pm. Glenn seconded.

Approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Michele Giarusso
Municipal Assistant